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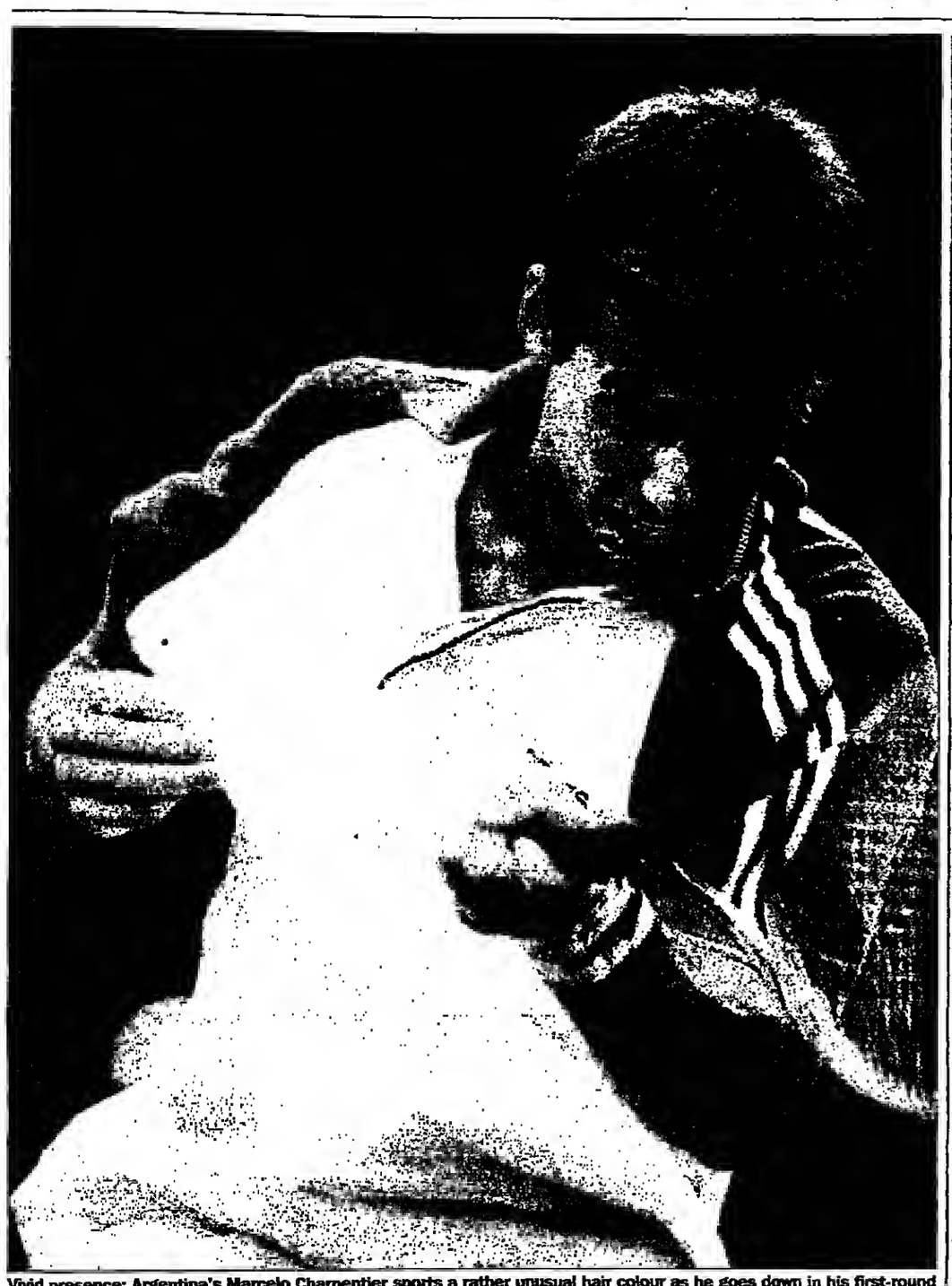
THE INDEPENDENT

Nº 3,332 WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 1997 WEATHER: Damp and showery at first (IR 45p) 40p

Inside the tabloid **City+** NEW SECTION WITH 55 PAGES OF OFFICE, LEGAL AND BANKING APPOINTMENTS

IN THE TABLOID
DIANA'S DRESSES: WHY QUEENS ARE QUEUING TO BUY

IN THE TABLOID
BRIDGET JONES: MY PROBLEM WITH GERMANY



Vivid presence: Argentina's Marcelo Charpentier sports a rather unusual hair colour as he goes down in his first-round match against France's Cedric Pioline at Wimbledon yesterday, on a day when two Britons, Greg Rusedski and Tim Wilkinson put out seeded players – Mark Philippoussis and Jonas Bjorkman Photograph: Neil Munns

Every other Briton will be hit by cancer

Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

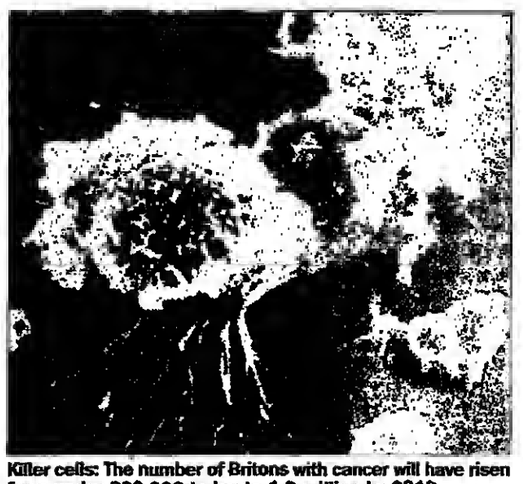
Cancer is rising rapidly and will affect one in two Britons in the next generation, researchers predicted yesterday.

By 2018, the number of people affected will have risen 70 per cent to more than one million. The sharp increase is only partly accounted for by the ageing of the population and will confirm what some doctors have long said: that the war against the disease is being lost.

In spite of the expenditure of hundreds of millions of pounds on research into combating cancer, the number of people affected has riseo steadily for the last 25 years. If it goes on rising at the same rate, by 2018 one in two of the population will succumb to the disease at some point in their lives compared with one in three today.

A study by Cambridge University scientists, commissioned by the charity Macmillan Cancer Relief, says that in 20 years the annual toll of new cancer cases will have grown by 56 per cent and the total number of people living with cancer by 68 per cent. The figures exclude skin cancers other than melanoma which are considered curable and at present account for 30,000 cases a year.

The population living with the disease in Britain will have risen from under 800,000 today to 1.3 million by 2018, imposing a huge extra burden on the NHS. Treatment for cancer is mostly long-term, involving expensive drugs, surgery and radiotherapy. A similar increase is expected in Europe and other western countries.



Killer cells: The number of Britons with cancer will have risen from under 800,000 today to 1.3 million by 2018

The Macmillan study is in line with figures published by the Office of National Statistics last year which showed a 30 per cent increase in oew cases of cancer in women and a 21 per cent increase in men between 1979 and 1991. The increase is attributed to improved treatments, which mean people live longer with cancer, and rises in certain types of cancer, as well as the ageing population. The effect of ageing accounted for a third of the rise in women and half of the rise in men, according to the statistics nffice.

Although research has scored some spectacular gains, especially against childhood cancers, progress against the main ones of lung, breast and bowel has been limited. Medical groups have compared cancer research to the attitude of the First World War general who declared: "Casualties: huge. Ground gained: negligible. Conclusion: press on."

One research charity hit back yesterday, claiming the Macmillan predictions were based on a worst-case scenario. The Cancer Research Campaign said: "We would consider it a failure if it were to come to pass."

Professor Gordon McVie, the CRC director, said the report took no account nf successes expected over the next two decades in reducing smoking, changing diets and developing new preventive measures based on vaccines and gene therapy.

Diane Stockton, a researcher at the East Anglia Cancer Registry and one of the authors of the study admitted it took no account of changes in behaviour that might occur in the next 20 years but said these could take decades before they reduced the oumbers with cancer. "Hopefully things will not look quite as bleak in 20 years time," she said.

The Macmillan study, based on figures from the East Anglia and North West regions, forecasts that prostate cancer, which rises steeply with advancing age, will triple by 2018 with more than one in four men affected during their lifetime compared with less than one in ten in 1990.

Breast cancer is set to rise from 9 per cent of womeo affected in 1990 to 13.7 per cent. The rise is believed to be linked partly to the trend to later childbirth. Lung cancer is set to drop sharply in men from 13 per cent to 8.4 per cent, but to double in women, from 4.4 per cent to 9 per cent, reflecting the later stage at which women took up smoking. Stomach cancer is expected to continue its decline in both sexes but bowel cancer will remain unchanged.

Professor Karol Sikora, clinical director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said the forecasts were too gloomy. "They do not allow for advances based on genetic risk profiling which will mean we can identify those most at risk and target screening and prevention at them. That will be our most powerful weapon."

Unionists query new peace plan

David McKittrick and Colin Brown

The new Blair-Dublin initiative on decommissioning paramilitary arms in Northern Ireland drew an uncertain response from the Ulster Unionist party yesterday, raising doubts about its prospect of success.

UUP leader David Trimble's initial remarks following his meeting with Tony Blair were regarded as unexpectedly conciliatory, being welcomed by Downing Street sources as helpful. This led some to surmise that a breakthrough might be on the cards on an issue which has been possibly the largest obstacle to progress for two years.

By late afternoon, however, a harder line was evident from the UUP, with Jeffrey Donaldson MP, one of Mr Trimble's closest confidants, indicating that his party had not ruled out a flat rejection of the proposals.

Mr Trimble himself, in a BBC radio interview at 5pm, had taken up what some observers saw as a significantly tougher position. He said: "Our view is that there has to be substantial decommissioning of weapons immediately after entry into talks, that is before entry into substantive negotiations."

This insistence on decommissioning before negotiations is precisely the stance which the British and Irish governments are intent on consigning to history. *On this, Mr Blair has* apparently moved towards the Irish position that it is unrealistic to expect either republicans or loyalists to hand over weapons at any early stage of negotiations.

The uncertainty surrounding the UUP position means that the republican camp largely escaped the glare of publicity yesterday, but Mr Blair's statement can be expected to put the focus of attention back on Sinn Fein and the IRA.

The Government will today publish a 12-page aide memoire which it secretly sent to the IRA and Sinn Fein setting out the extent of the contacts which have gone on between government officials and Sinn Fein. It will show that there were two key meetings and a third meeting was planned but was aborted by the Northern Ireland Office after the killings by the IRA of two policemen in Lurgan.

A Downing Street source said the two documents would provide conclusive evidence for international opinion that the IRA could nnt claim they were being prevented from joining the peace talks by the intransigence of the British Government. "Whether they want to be in this or not, the Prime Minister is determined to try to find a way to move things forward. *He feels* the atmospherics in relation to the Irish government, the American government and the other parties are good," said the source.

Mr Blair will launch a last bid for peace in the Commons with a warning to the IRA and Sinn Fein that all-party talks will begin without them in September, unless they declare a ceasefire.

The Prime Minister will leave the door open for Sinn Fein to join the talks at a later stage, but his statement to the Commons is intended to intensify international pressure on the IRA to call a ceasefire to qualify for a seat at the conference table after the July marching season.

Mr Blair will publisb details of the agreement between the London and Dublin governments for "parallet" decommissioning nf weapons during the talks, without a deadline or timetable, to be overseen by an internatinnal commission, with a committee acting as a go-between.

Mr Blair counts the support of the US President, Bill Clinton, which he secured at the G7 talks in Denver, to be a crucial factor in the international pressure which could bring about a ceasefire.

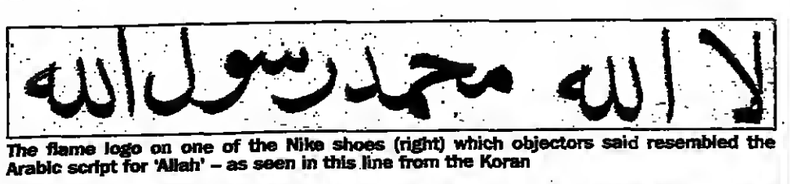
Nike to trash trainers that offended Islam

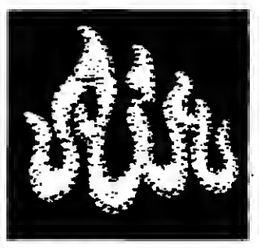
Louise Jury

Nike is to recall a range of sports shoes carrying a logo that offended Muslims in America. It has agreed not to sell the new line in Britain.

In exchange for the sales ban and an apology, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (Cair) will urge Muslims around the world not to boycott Nike products. The company also agreed to donate a $50,000 (£31,000) playground to an Islamic elementary school in the United States.

A row broke out after the company used a logo meant to look like flames on a line of basketball shoes to be sold this summer, with the names "Air Bakin'", "Air Melt", "Air Grill" and "Air B-Que". Some Muslims claimed that the logo resembled the word "Allah" written in Arabic script.





The flame logo on one of the Nike shoes (right) which objectors said resembled the Arabic script for 'Allah' – as seen in this line from the Koran

The problem was first identified by a Muslim distributor last September, and the logo amended. But Islamic leaders said it was still offensive to their religion when the shoes hit the shops in America and some other parts of the world in March. Now Nike has withdrawn 38,000 pairs of the shoes worldwide.

Nihad Awas, Cair's executive director, said: "We wanted to reinstate confidence in our community that whenever they see something offensive, there could be something dnne about it."

Roy Agostino, for Nike, said the company immediately diverted supplies away from Islamic states and discontinued production. It had also introduced a review panel into its development process to prevent any similar problems in future.

"We have, through this process, developed a deeper understanding of Islamic concerns and Islamic issues," he said. "As our brand continues to expand, we have tn deepen our awareness of other world communities."

This is the second time in recent years that Nike was criticised by the council. In 1995, the shoe company removed a billboard near the University of Snuthern California that depicted a basketball player with the headline "They called him Allah."

Yesterday's agreement was made public on the same day that Nike issued the findings of an independent inquiry it ordered into the code of conduct implemented in its factnries.

The firm, like sportswear rivals Reebok, bas come under fire in recent months from the charity Christian Aid. One factory in Vietnam was reported to have made 61 women run two laps around a plant to discipline them for failing to meet production quotas and for wearing improper footwear.

Mr Young, who visited factories in China, Vietnam and Indonesia said he found no evidence of widespread abuse or mistreatment of workers. But be recommended that Nike consider baving an ombudsman in each country.

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QUICKLY

Parachute 'miracle'
A British tourist had a miraculous escape when he survived a 5,000ft fall after his parachute failed to open during a freefall jump in Florida. Page 3

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news

significant shorts

Van Gogh painting fetches £8.8m in two-minute sale

A farming scene by Vincent van Gogh was sold in London last night for £8.8m – in less than two minutes. Bidding at Sotheby's sales rooms started at £6.5m and rose quickly to £7m before reaching the final figure.The anonymous bidder bought the painting, *Harvest in Provence*, by telephone. Sotheby's refused to give any details although the buyer is thought to be American. The sale set a new record for a painting by the artist on paper rather than on canvas. The previous record was £4.2m paid in New York for Van Gogh's *Garden of Flowers*.

Harvest in Provence was said to be the most important work on paper by Van Gogh which was still in private hands. It was bought by London collector, Mrs J B A Kessler, in 1930 and was sold yesterday by a family trust. It had not been seen in public since 1948, and the sales rooms were packed for its appearance.

Rape victim in centre funding plea

A rape victim and user of the counselling group Leeds Rape Crisis was yesterday given the go-ahead to bring a judicial review of Leeds City Council's decision to remove funding for the organisation. The unique case is being brought by a survivor of ritual abuse concerned about the withdrawal of counselling support she receives at the centre.

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was born into a cult and suffered abuse at the hands of some members of her extended family and friends. No criminal prosecution has so far been launched. The centre has experience of dealing with ritual abuse. The woman said: "The court has decided that I have an arguable case. It is now for Leeds City Council to answer for their actions." The full hearing will take place in August.

Patricia Wynn Davies

Snooker star jailed on drug charge

Snooker star Silvino Francisco was jailed for three years yesterday after admitting smuggling cannabis worth £155,000 through Dover. South-African born Francisco, 50, the former British Open champion pleaded guilty at Canterbury Crown Court to smuggling 47 kilogrammes of the drugs through the Kent port on 10 February. Customs officers stopped him as he left a ferry and found the cannabis resin hidden in his Fiat sports car. Once ranked in the top ten of world snooker players and winner of the British Open in 1985, Francisco, from Chesterfield in Derbyshire, was declared bankrupt last year.

UK threatens to step up beef war

Britain yesterday renewed its threat to escalate the "beef war" by blocking beef imports from Europe unless Continental abattoir standards are raised as a guard against "mad cow disease", or BSE. The warning came from Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, at a meeting of European Union farm ministers, at which he repeated his vow to stop imports from the Continent after 22 July if they do not tighten meat processing and inspection standards.

Dr Cunningham first declared his intention to impose the ban at the start of this month, when he said he would act based on scientific advice from Seac, the advisory body on BSE and related diseases. Seac suggested that the same strict measures should be required of imported beef as on domestic beef – where the heads, spines and other organs are removed in the abattoir and destroyed. Many European countries do not follow the same practice, arguing that they have no cases of BSE.

Charles Arthur

Train drivers suspend overtime ban

A ban on overtime by train drivers which has led to cancellations on busy commuter routes into London was suspended yesterday after fresh talks. The drivers' union Aslef said the action by its members on Connex South Central was lifted last night after management representatives met with Lew Adams, the union's general secretary.

Randeep Ramesh

Fishermen rescued as boat sinks

Five Irish fishermen were rescued off the west coast of Scotland yesterday after their vessel, the *Father Brendon*, went down in calm seas. An RAF helicopter flew one of the men, who was suffering from hypothermia, to hospital at Letterkenny in Donegal.

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

people

Greer: 'Disgraceful that Dr Padman has been put in this situation' *(Photograph: Brendan Monks)*

Fellows divided over don who breached last bastion

Fellows at Cambridge University's only remaining all-women college yesterday spoke out in favour of Dr Rachel Padman, a trans-sexual woman don, staying at the college.

They felt strongly that Dr Padman, 43, a physicist specialising in star formation, who was appointed a fellow of Newnham College last autumn, should not be removed as a fellow or forced to resign because of her past – despite the fact that legally she is still a man.

Ruth Murrell-Laguado, a pharmacologist, said she had no problem with "someone who was born a man being allowed to be a fellow at Newnham". And she added: "My general feeling is that people who have gone through a sex change have faced a difficult enough decision to make that change and I am prepared to accept them as the sex they want to be."

Her views were backed by Honorary Fellow Professor Phyllis Deans, who said: "I am not a lawyer, so I don't know about the legal position. But I don't have a problem with it at all. If she arrived as a woman having had the appropriate sex change, I don't see why we should worry about it."

Meanwhile, the feminist academic, Germaine Greer, who is a member of the college's governing body, is horrified at the decision to admit Dr Padman as a Fellow of the college because the statutes insist that all fellows must be women. She is considering calling an emergency meeting of the governing body to discuss the controversy. Only Newnham's principal, Dr Onora O'Neil, knew that Dr Padman had undergone a sex-change operation to become a woman in 1982. Dr Greer and other fellows had had no idea of Dr Padman's history. "We have driven a coach and horses through our statutes and I can't believe we did it," she said. "It's disgraceful that Dr Padman has been placed in this situation. It makes me very angry."

Dr Padman, like Dr Greer born in Australia, is said to have considered resigning if "a significant number of women" at the college were unhappy with her position, but did not want to lose "something I love".

One way Newnham could solve the problem would be by voting to admit men as fellows – the move was rejected by a small majority in 1990 – but Dr Padman said she preferred to keep the college single-sex. "It is an exhilarating feeling being surrounded by clever and intelligent women," she said.

Clare Garner

Hats off to Eric in star-studded showbiz tribute

The veteran comedian Eric Sykes yesterday celebrated 50 years in showbusiness.

Stars including Bruce Forsyth, Bob Hoskins, Ken Dodd, Dave Allen and Spike Milligan honoured him at a special Variety Club lunch at the Dorchester Hotel, in London.

Sykes, 73, (pictured right with Hoskins) has been enjoying a comeback recently, getting rave reviews for his West End debut this year in Sir Peter Hall's production of Moliere's *School For Wives*. But he has always been best known as a television comedian, particularly for his gentle Sixties sitcom series starring himself as genial, and accident prone with Hattie Jacques playing his sister. He has also written scripts for Tommy Cooper, Frankie Howerd and The Goons.

Recently he made known his antipathy to some modern comics. The younger generation, he said, were over-confident and lacked the "vulnerability" of their older peers. He said: "These days they come on and insult audiences. That's not right. If you look at old comics, such as Tommy Cooper, the only people they were talking down were themselves."

A spokesman for the Variety Club said the lunch was also to thank the veteran entertainer for his years of work for the club's children's charity.

He is a member of the Variety Club Golfing Society, the club's leading Sunshine Coach sponsor which provides transport for thousands of disadvantaged children each year.

David Lister

University's man for millennium

George Bain, principal of the London Business School, has been appointed vice-chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast.

Professor Bain, 58, a Canadian, said he was "delighted" and was looking forward enormously to taking up his post next year when the current vice-chancellor, Sir Gordon Beveridge, retires.

Professor Bain has an international reputation in labour relations, involving arbitration, conciliation and mediation. He has served on a number of government bodies both in Canada and the UK and was recently appointed chairman of the Low Pay Commission.

John McGuckian, senior pro-chancellor of Queen's, said the university was very pleased with the appointment. "He is the ideal vice-chancellor to lead Queen's into the next millennium." The Student Union also welcomed the announcement: "The appointment of a chief executive of this calibre to steer the university into the next century is a defining moment," a spokesman said.

Kate Watson-Smyth

briefing

SOCIETY

Unemployment blamed for spate of rioting

Lack of job opportunities, family breakdown, and poor police relations must all be tackled to prevent further rioting on rundown estates, according to a study supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

A report on 13 neighbourhoods across England and Wales where riots took place in the early 1990s concludes that they occurred through the "fatal combination" of large numbers of young people without jobs and inconsistent policing. Concentrations of the young on the riot estates were far higher than for the country as a whole, and in some areas over half the residents were aged under 24. Unlike the inner-city disorders of the early 1980s, the vast majority of rioters were white.

The report calls for three main areas to tackle the problems – more family and community support, better education, training and jobs and changing allocation policies that lead to the "dumping" of lone parents and other vulnerable families on unpopular estates.

"One striking feature of the riot areas was that they had all been the target for major government programmes," said Rebecca Tunstall, co-author of the report. "Yet the focus on short-term improvements did little to change the prospects for young men, who by rioting destroyed many of the community's hard-won gains."

Dangerous Disorder: Riots and Violent Disturbances in 13 Areas of Britain, 1991-92; available from York Publishing Services, 64 Hallfield Rd, Layerthorpe, York, YO3 7XQ; £11.45

Glenda Cooper

LIFESTYLE

Mature mothers become majority

British women giving birth in their early thirties have for the first time overtaken those having children in their early twenties, according to a new survey.

Combined with the increase in fertility rates for women in their late thirties, the survey from the Office for National Statistics confirms the trend towards women starting their families later in life. It showed that in 1994 the number of live births per 1,000 women were 90 for the 30-34 age group, compared to 80 for women aged 20 to 24. The findings represent a turnaround from as recently as 1991. The report also showed that for the first time, women in their late 30s were producing more children than teenage girls, at 38 births per 1,000 women, compared with 25 per thousand in the teenage group. The decision to have children did not affect the steady increase of women working, the survey indicated. During the most fertile time, 25-34 years, women in the labour force rose from 61 per cent in 1984 to 72 per cent in 1994, and the figure is expected to be 80 per cent by 2006.

Glenda Cooper

MEDIA

More listeners desert Radio 1

Radio 1's audience has dropped below 10 million for the first time following the departure of Chris Evans (right) from its breakfast show, according to the latest unofficial audience listening figures. Leaked figures show that Radio 1's audience dropped by 650,000 during April and May. The last published audience survey showed it with 10,278,000 listeners a week. In May its audience was down to 9,631,000, a fall of 6 per cent.

Paul McCann

PROPERTY

Housing shortage set to ease

House-hunters frustrated by limited choice were given some good news yesterday – property shortages affecting many areas appear to be easing at last.

The number of properties for sale is now showing "a much-needed upward turn", said the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Rics) in its latest housing market survey. There was evidence of stock levels beginning to rise in areas where the shortages have been most extreme, such as London, it stated. A spokesman added: "This is a decisive moment for the housing market. Whether this is the beginning of a trend remains to be confirmed, but we expect to see more sellers taking the plunge once the [2 July] Budget is behind us."

EMPLOYMENT

Job satisfaction for NHS chiefs

Health service chief executives often work a 12-hour day and most find their job stimulating and enjoyable, a report said yesterday.

A survey of nearly 1,700 senior health managers showed that chief executives worked an average of 57 hours a week, with more than half exceeding 60 hours.

The report from the NHS Confederation, which represents NHS trusts and health authorities, said 81 per cent of managers found their work enjoyable, despite the fact that 72 per cent found aspects of their job stressful.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Belgium	BFr80	Italy	L4,500
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Cyprus	C£1.20	Malta	43 cents
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Irish Rep	45p	Portugal	Esc325
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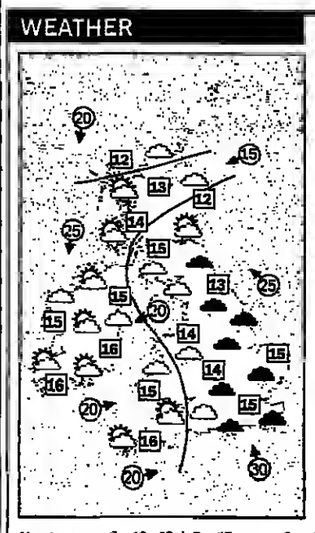
WEATHER



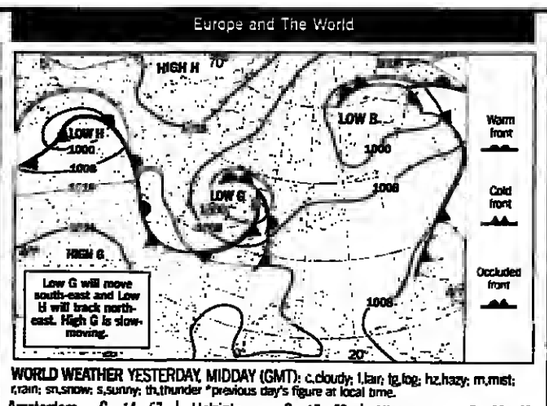
The British Isles

General Situation and Outlook:

This morning will be dull and wet over most of the country, the rain heavy and prolonged in places with a small risk of thunder. The far north of Scotland could well stay dry. A clearance should reach Northern Ireland, Wales, and western England later this morning, spreading to central and eastern counties during the afternoon and evening. This will consequently bring bright spells and scattered showers. The wind will be quite strong and blustery in most places. Tomorrow, the unsettled and unseasonably cool weather will continue. Eastern and central England will stay overcast with outbreaks of rain, these heavy in East Anglia and the south-east. Western England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will have brief sunny spells and a scattering of showers. All regions will have a brisk, blustery, north to north-west wind. Friday and the weekend will bring little improvement with a slow-moving low pressure area bringing further rain, this heavy and thundery at times.

Aberdeen	C	10	50	Cardiff	C	15	59	Ipswich	C	14	57	Plymouth	C	12	54
Anglesey	F	13	55	Carlisle	F	15	59	Isles of Scilly	C	16	61	Ronaldsway	F	13	55
Ayr	n/a			Dover	F	15	59	Jersey	C	16	61	Scarborough	C	13	55
Belfast	C	14	57	Dublin	C	14	57	Liverpool	F	13	55	Southampton	C	18	64
Birmingham	C	14	57	Edinburgh	S	15	59	Lizard	C	14	57	Southend	C	16	61
Blackpool	F	13	55	Exeter	C	15	59	London	C	16	61	Stornoway	C	11	52
Bournemouth	C	16	61	Glasgow	C	15	59	Manchester	C	14	57	Tiree	C	11	52
Brighton	C	17	63	Guernsey	C	16	61	Newcastle	C	14	57	York	C	15	59
Bristol	C	15	59	Inverness	C	11	52	Oxford*	C	15	59				

Europe and The World



WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT): c,cloudy; f,fair; fg,fog; hz,hazy; m,mist; r,rain; sn,snow; s,sunny; th,thunder *previous day's figure at local time.

Amsterdam	C	14	57	Helsinki	C	17	63	Nice	S	22	72				
Athens	S	30	86	Hong Kong	C	29	84	Oslo	C	19	66				
Auckland	F	11	52	Jerusalem	S	26	79	Paris	C	15	59				
Bangkok	F	36	97	Kingston	C	31	88	Perth	F	20	68				
Barbados	C	30	86	Lisbon	M	25	77	Rio de Jan	F	27	81				
Barcelona	F	24	75	Los Angeles	F	23	73	Rome	F	23	73				
Berlin	Sh	16	61	Madrid	S	26	79	San Fran	S	22	72				
Bermuda	C	28	82	Majorca	F	27	81	Stockholm	Sh	18	64				
Brussels	Sh	13	55	Malaga	S	25	77	Strasbourg	Th	15	59				
Bucharest	C	23	73	Malta	F	25	77	Sydney	S	9	48				
Budapest	F	22	72	Melbourne	Dr	11	52	Tel Aviv	S	31	88				
Buenos Aires	R	12	54	Mexico City	C	20	68	Tenerife	C	25	77				
Cairo	S	35	95	Miami	Th	24	75	Toronto	C	26	79				
Cape Town	C	13	55	Milan	F	26	79	Vancouver	C	15	59				
Copenhagen	C	15	59	Moscow	C	23	73	Venice	F	23	73				
Corfu	S	26	79	Munich	F	15	59	Vienna	F	20	68				
Dhahran	S	43	109	Nassau	F	30	86	Warsaw	Sh	15	59				
Frankfurt	C	15	59	New Delhi	F	33	91	Washington	S	32	90				
Gibraltar	C	20	68	New York	C	28	82	Zurich	C	13	55				

AA Roadwatch

London, A11 Leytonstone. Lane closures at A12 roundabout until August 1999.

London, A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed until January 1998.

Surrey, M25 J8-10. Lane closures both ways between Reigate and the A3 until further notice.

Bristol, M5 J18-19. Contraflow on Avonmouth Bridge until August 1998.

Staffordshire, A50 Stoke On Trent. Major works at Meir until March 1998.

Nottinghamshire, A52 Beeston. Major roadworks on Derby Road. Expect delays between Sherwin Arms and Priory Roundabouts.

West Midlands, A41 Wolverhampton. Roadworks on Bilston Road until further notice.

Merseyside, A567 Bootle. Stanley Rd closed northbound until further notice.

Tyne & Wear, A19 Newcastle area. Roadworks at Killingworth.

West Yorks, M1 J47. Major long-term roadworks until Sept 15.

North Yorks, A19 Thornaby-on-Tees and Billingham. Roadworks with two lanes open both ways.

Out and about with AA Roadwatch call **0336 401** for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per minute at all times (inc VAT).

Lighting-up Times

London	21.22	to 4.45	London	21.22	to 4.45
Bristol	21.31	to 4.55	Bristol	21.31	to 4.55
Birmingham	21.35	to 4.46	Birmingham	21.35	to 4.46
Manchester	21.42	to 4.42	Manchester	21.42	to 4.42
Newcastle	21.50	to 4.29	Newcastle	21.50	to 4.29
Glasgow	22.07	to 4.32	Glasgow	22.07	to 4.32
Belfast	22.04	to 4.48	Belfast	22.04	to 4.48

Air Quality

Yesterday's Readings

	NO_2	O_3
London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

Outlook for Today

London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

High Tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	5.49	7.3	18.04	7.1
Liverpool	3.02	9.5	15.30	9.0
Avonmouth	11.19	12.8	23.43	12.8
Hull (Albert Dock)	10.12	8.6	22.48	8.3
Greenock	4.24	3.6	16.55	3.3
Dun Laoghaire	3.21	4.2	16.04	3.9

Sun and Moon

Sun rises 4.44 — Sun sets 21.22
Moon rises 0.12 — Moon sets 10.30

Last Quarter: 27 June

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The man who fell to earth and lived to tell the tale

James Mellor and Phil Davison

A Briton had a "miracle" escape wheo he survived a terrifying 5,000ft plunge to the ground after his parachute failed to open during a free fall jump.

Gareth Griffiths, 27, who works as a management consultant in London, was holidaying with friends in Florida when a routine tandem sky-dive turned to tragedy.

Eyewitness reports suggested that he had been saved by the heroic actions of his instructor, American Michael Costello, 42, who twisted in mid-air to take the brunt of the blow as the pair struck the ground.

Mr Costello died in the accident, near Florida's Umatilla airport 35 miles north of Orlando, hut Mr Griffiths' condition was described as "encouraging" by the Orlando Regional Medical Centre where he is recovering from a fractured spine and injuries to the chest and abdomen.

Joe Brown, a spokesman for the hospital, said: "He is in a serious hut stable condition. He underwent seven hours of surgery to repair damage to his lower back but is expected to fully recover."

Michael Tighe was amongst a group of four friends of Mr Griffiths who witnessed the drama on Sunday afternoon. The party had taken a two-week break in America and had organised a 10-day parachuting course to prepare themselves for a US licence.

"The instructor saved Gareth's life," said Mr Tighe. "We have spoken to Gareth in hospital, where he is in a lot of pain."

Umatilla's police chief, Doug Foster, said: "He's one lucky Brit. This was a miracle, no doubt about it ... It's just incredible, but the trainer seems to have absorbed the impact."

Wilma Godwin, who owns the Paragators Sport Parachute Centre that organised the trip, paid tribute to Mr Costello's bravery. "He saved the young man's life, and he knew what he was doing," she said.

She added that Mr Costello, who had 18 years parachuting experience, had made more than 7,500 jumps, including some as a stunt man in the Hollywood film *Drop Zone*.

Mr Griffiths' parents, David and Fay of Bridgend, South Wales, said: "It's just a miracle he is not dead. It was a terrible shock. We are still terribly worried about what the effect of his injuries could be. But I thank God somehow he is alive."

Mr Griffiths, a hachelor, who works for management advisers Andersen Consulting, is a keeo sportsmen and no stranger to adventure sports, such as white water rafting.

> 'He's one lucky Brit. This was a miracle, no doubt about it. It's just incredible, but the trainer seems to have absorbed the impact'

Parachuting and free fall jumping are an increasingly popular pursuit, particularly in the United States, and enthusiasts are passionate about their sport.

Tye Boughen is one such fanatic. Curiosity over a newspaper advertisement 15 years ago developed into a passion and Mr Boughen has now completed more than 3,250 jumps of different kinds, most commonly the tandem sky-dive, the type in which Mr Griffiths was injured.

"Free fall is the favourite jump of any parachutist. It is where the exhilaration of the sport is at its greatest. Most people would imagine that falling to earth at 120mph is terrifying but that is not the case," he said.

"In fact it is like floating on a cushion of air. A good parachutist in free fall can be a gymnast, a surf-boarder or an arrow, it all depends upon training and choice. Each jump is different and requires skill and concentration.

"Of course everyone is scared before their first jump, even experienced parachutists are anxious before big jumps. I've been fortunate and have never been injured but I know plenty of people wbo have sprained ankles, suffered bumps and bruises and injured legs. The thing is that their passion picks them up and drives them on to continue."

Tandem sky-diving, the type of jump that Mr Griffiths embarked upon, involves the novice being strapped to the instructor. The pair then free fall for the first part of the descent, normally about 30 seconds, and then release the parachute to glide to earth. The jumps cost between £80-£100 but insurance for accident is rarely included within the terms of holiday policies.

John Hitchen, national coach and safety officer from the British Parachute Association (BPA), said: "This is an unusual case. Usually in tandem jumping accidents both or neither would die. However, I can think of scenarios where the instructor could be turned round and hit the ground first and the novice's fall would therefore be cushiooed."

Britain has about 30 parachuting clubs and more than 250,000 jumps are made each year of which about 10,000 are tandem sky-dives. According to the BPA there have been three fatalities in the last three years in the UK and during the worst year on record five people lost their lives to the sport. In America, experts calculate that over 100,000 tandem jumps are made annually.

Adventure sportsman: Gareth Griffiths pictured on a recent canoeing trip Photograph: Hugh Evans

Free fall: High-risk sports have their share of accidents and also some lucky escapes

British tourist joins an exclusive club

James Mellor

Gareth Griffiths' miraculous escape is not the first remarkable survival story from mid-air accidents.

The most sensational occurred in January 1972, when Vesna Vulovic, a Czechoslovak air hostess, plummeted 33,330 feet – more than 10 kilometres – without a parachute, after her plane exploded mid-flight.

In 1944, Flt Sgt Nichnlas Alkemade survived a plunge of more than 18,000 feet after his Lancaster bomber was shot down over Germany.

More recently in April 1994, Des Malony, 28, from Chobham, Surrey, dropped 3,000 feet when his parachnte failed tn fully open after he fell from a former RAF jet at 250 mph while in a mid-air roll. He escaped with cuts and hruises wheo he landed on the grass verge at a superstore in Colchester, Essex. That same year a 36-year-old Snssex man reached speeds of 80 mph when he fell more than 4,500 feet and escaped with back injuries.

Florida was the venne for another remarkable cheating of death in 1995, when Penny Roberts from West Yorkshire hit a concrete runway at more than 50mph after plummeting 13,500 feet. The accident left her paralysed.

In 1996, a former Army serviceman, Pat Dolan from Bradford, suffered temporary paralysis and a hroken leg when his parachute collapsed at 6,500 feet while sky-diving in Italy. Later that year, Paratrooper Alan Crown fell 1,000 feet. Doctmrs later explained his escape from his 120mph plunge to his bulging muscles which cushioned the hlnw as he hit the ground.

In September 1996, Devon-based Rob Lock cheated death when he fell 6,000 feet after his parachnte failed.

Coughs and sneezes spread diseases – but not among friends

Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

The workaholic, the lonely widow and the social misfit share a common weakness, researchers have found. Their lack of social ties makes them more vulnerable to the common cold.

People with a wide range of social relationships are less likely to catch colds and suffer fewer symptoms than those whose social life is more narrowly based, a study has shown.

However, friends alone are not enough to confer protection. Scientists at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, US, who administered cold viruses to 276 healthy volunteers aged 18 to 55, found it was the diversity of social ties, rather than their quantity, that mattered. Those with a range of different relationships – with family, friends, community groups and work colleagues – were less susceptible to colds, produced less mucous and shed less virus than those whose lives were focused on one type, such as home or work.

Dr Sheldon Cohen, who led the study, said 12 social roles were defined, including spouse, parent, child, parent-in-law, and member of work, school or religious group. Friends were defined as someone in contact at least once every two weeks.

"Whether you have one friend or 20 makes no difference, that is only one kind of social tie. It is not the number of relationships but their diversity that counts," he said.

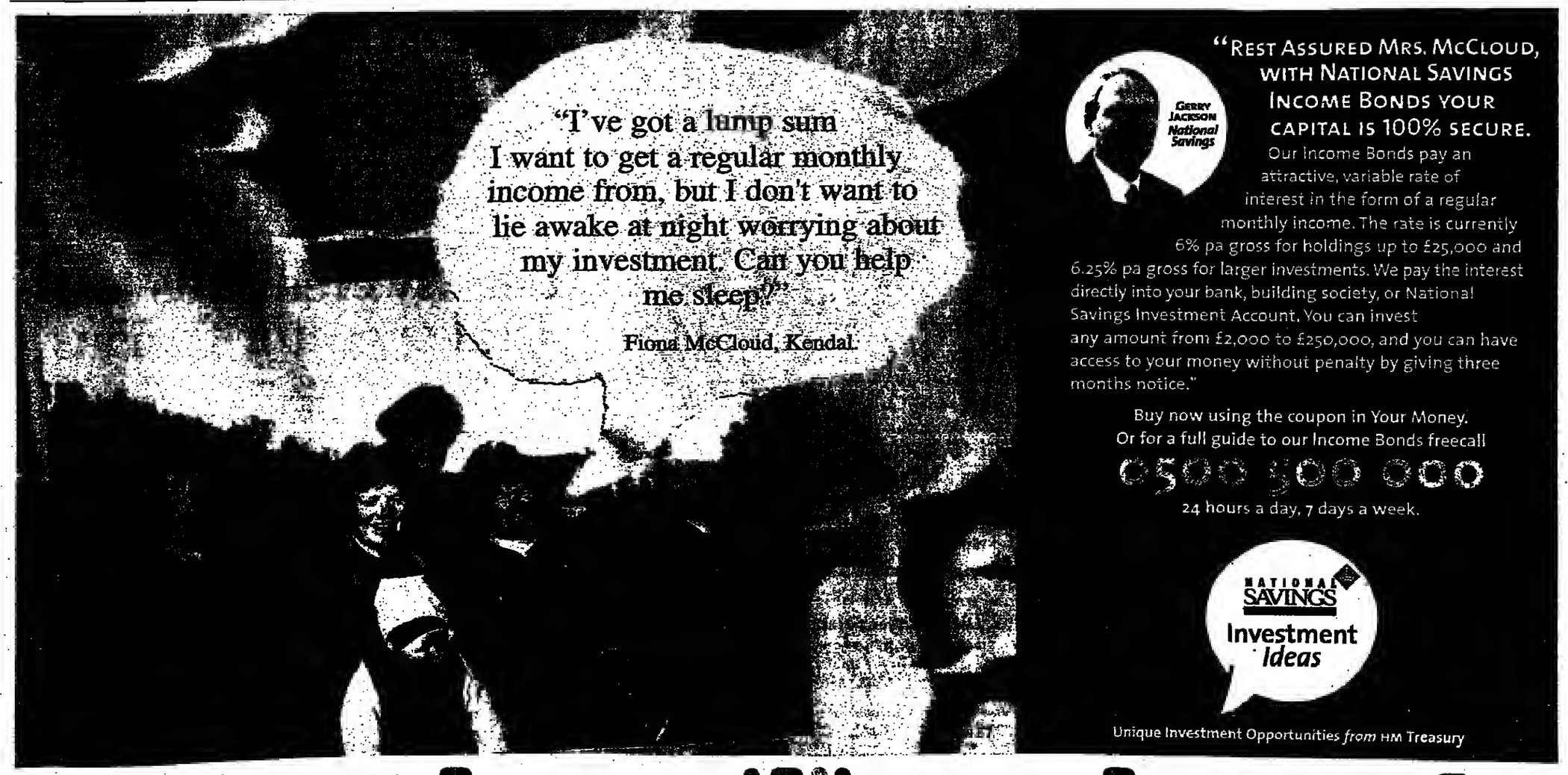
Those who said they had between one and three types of relationship had more than four times the risk of contracting colds, compared with those who said they had six or more types of relationships, the researchers report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The difference in risk remained even after smoking, drinking and consumption of vitamin C were taken into account.

Dr Sheldon said the findings supported other evidence suggesting people with more kinds of social tie live longer. In Britain, life expectancy for men aged 25 to 39 has fallen for the first time this century. The rising divorce rate, family breakups and loneliness are thought to be partly to blame.

The authors say people with broader social contacts may have a greater sense of responsibility and self-worth which encourages them to take more care of their health and makes them less prone to anxiety and depression. There are also hormonal effects that may strengthen the immune system.

Dr Sheldon said: "If your life is work and you have no family or friends and something goes wrong at work, your whole concept of yourself is blown. But if your work is just a part of your life and you have family and friends, go to a bowling group or to church, of course you will be upset if something goes wrong at work but it doesn't destroy your world."

"It has to do with how people view the world and the impact things going wrong in any part of it have on them."



BA cabin crew vote for strike action

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

Cabin crew at British Airways are understood to have voted overwhelmingly for industrial action, threatening a summer of severe disruption for holidaymakers and business travellers.

Union leaders are today expected to announce that around three-quarters of the 9,000-strong workforce have voted in favour of strikes.

Both of Britain's main airports at Heathrow and Gatwick will be hit by the dispute which could turn into the airline industry's version of the Wapping dispute and the miners' strike of 1984-85, where fundamental issues of union rights are settled.

A strike vote among 9,000 ground staff, the result of which is due next Monday, is predicted to show a similar majority in favour of action.

Inevitably, the Transport & General Workers' Union is expected to co-ordinate any disruption by ground staff and cabin crew. Flight staff are protesting at an offer on pay and conditions, and airport workers are angry over a plan by BA to sell off the company's catering division.

Meetings next Monday and Tuesday are due to decide the exact nature of industrial action, which could come in the form of 24- to 48-hour strikes. Given the statutory seven days' notice of industrial action, BA employees could walk out any time from 7 July.

Yesterday, Bill Morris, General Secretary of the T&GWU, replied to a letter from Robert Ayling, Chief Executive of the airline, who warned that stoppages could "destroy" jobs. Mr Ayling warned the union leader that the airline had to be competitive, but that it was committed to positive relationships with modern trade unions.

In his reply, Mr Morris defended the union's position point by point and expressed amazement at the company resources devoted to preparing for a dispute rather than seeking to avoid one. Audio and videocassettes, letters, leaflets and news-sheets have been sent to employees' homes putting across the management's point of view.

The airline has gone on record warning the union that alternative staff would be used to ensure that BA services are maintained. Managers have been trained in ground handling and an employment agency has been called in to provide temporary staff.

If the dispute goes ahead, it will be the first major industrial conflict under the new Labour Government. Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, has personal links with both Mr Ayling and Mr Morris – although the Government will not want to be seen to be interfering.

Wonderwall: A passer-by beating a hasty retreat yesterday as huge waves whipped by high winds lash Scarborough's Marine Drive Photograph: Tony Bartholomew

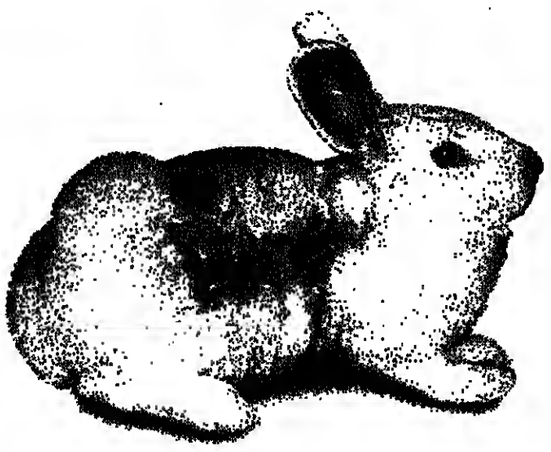
Beauty can be an ugly business. About 30,000 animals are still being killed in Europe each year in cosmetic testing.

In allergy skin tests, the fur is shaved from the backs of guinea pigs and the test chemical is applied. Often, in such a concentrated form that it can burn right through the skin.

The tests drag on for at least 7 days before these poor, mutilated 'stimulus-response models' are put out of their misery.

Meanwhile, just to make sure a new shampoo, or shower gel doesn't sting, it is squirted into the eyes of animals. Rabbits are preferred because they cannot produce enough tears to wash away the irritants. Their large eyes also make it easier to observe the chemical ulceration of the eyeballs.

Why are these tests that started over 50 years ago allowed to continue, when up to 8,000 cosmetic ingredients are already known to be safe? Do we really need more?

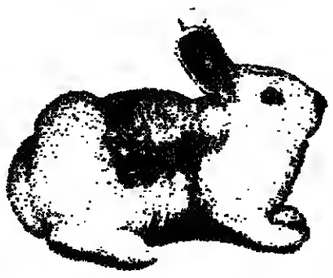


DO YOU HAVE DRY, OILY OR THICK SKIN?

The European marketing ban on animal-tested cosmetics that was due to become law next year has now been postponed until the next century.

That is why the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) and other animal protection groups worldwide, are asking you to switch to humane alternatives now. By doing this you can literally help save the skins of thousands of animals a year. The more progressive manufacturers, retailers and supermarket chains already support this campaign.

Please don't turn your back. For more information and a list of cruelty-free brands and supermarket own labels call 0171 700 4232, or write to BUAV, 16a Crane Grove, London N7 8LB.



BUAV

COSMETIC TESTING
IT'S IN YOUR HANDS

Britain gets a thumbs up for environment

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent
Nicholas Schoon
New York

But France, Australia and US win pariah status

William Hague's parliamentary debut as Conservative Party leader coincided with his first confrontation with the Prime Minister during a debate on the outcome of the Denver Summit.

Mr Hague said told Tony Blair he was "dismayed" at the meeting's failure to reach an agreement on targets for combating greenhouse gases and global warming.

But any increase in taxes to meet environmental aims should be matched by reductions in other taxes, he said.

Mr Blair said he could not give details of tax plans before next week's Budget. "I do believe the most important thing we can do ... is to carry on with the measures, particularly in relation to transport and energy efficiency, that we have already outlined," he said.

At the summit in New York, Britain was hailed a paragon and France condemned as a pariah in the eyes of the many environmental groups attending the Earth Summit Plus Five event.

Friends of the Earth has carried out a ballot among the dozens of pressure groups lobbying government delegates at UN headquarters, asking them which nations have performed the best and which have failed to deliver on the promises made at the original 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Britain was chosen as one of nine paragons "for cracking down on water wastage and emphasising water conservation, over meeting rising demand, and for scaling down road building".

France was among 12 pariahs. "Before Rio France blew up the Rainbow Warrior, after Rio it blew up Mururoa Atoll – leader in the emerging field of environmental delinquency," said the citation.

Other pariahs include the United States and Australia for failing to tackle global warming, Brazil for allowing the rate at which the Amazon rainforests are disappearing to speed up, and Japan for killing whales and being the world's biggest importer of tropical timber.

Tony Blair's speech on Monday to this week-long special session of the UN special assembly has been well received by delegates and reported at length by the *New York Times*. He attacked the USA and other non-European industrialised nations for failing to curb rising emissions of greenhouse gases.

Yesterday, however, Tim Wirth, under secretary for global affairs in the State Department, told reporters that Britain and Germany were being smug in proclaiming their success in cutting carbon dioxide emissions in the 1990s. Britain's achievement was mainly due to the closure of most of our coalmining industry and the switch to gas, a much less polluting fuel, he said. Germany, Brazil, South Africa and Singapore had jointly called for a new UN environmental organisation to be beef up what they see as the UN's poor performance on global green issues.

The Nairobi-based UN environment programme is is widely criticised as ineffectual. But Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, showed no enthusiasm for this idea.

The main output of the summit, attended by more then 60 prime ministers and presidents, is a lengthy text on whether nations have fulfilled Rio Earth Summit promises and what still needs to be done to schieve sustainable development. But there is still major disagreement between nations about this text, which civil servants are negotiating in New York.

One concern is the need for an international treaty on managing forests. Another is about what the rich countries should do about their emissions of greenhouse gases after the year 2000. The bitterest and longest argument, which will go on through the entire week, is over the scale of foreign aid from rich nations to developing ones.

Andrew Marr, page 19

Unanswered calls leave rail operator furious

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

Train companies were warned yesterday that they face "unlimited" fines if the recent "awful" performance of the telephone inquiry service does not improve.

John Swift QC, the rail regulator, decided to act after receiving the latest figures from privatised rail industry, which showed that 49 per cent of calls went unanswered in April and 35 per cent were not taken in May. The rules state that 90 per cent of all calls should be answered. The companies should be "in no doubt as to the consequences" if the required standards were not met," said Mr Swift.

The regulator's warning came after his office issued an order seeking weekly information on performance of the telephone service. The train operators, who run the national telephone service, have until the second week in July to convince the rail regulator that they have improved the service.

Aides point out that the industry did not supply the relevant information early enough. "The regulator is furious – he could have acted a month ago but the companies did not churn out the numbers," said one official.

Given the chance, the watchdog will bite. One source close to the regulator said the total penalty may run to "millions of pounds ... there are 25 train companies. If the national telephone system does not meet the required standards, we will fine each one of them."

Officially known as the National Rail Enquiry Service, the service is administered by the Association of Train Operating Companies (Atoc).

In April last year, the system had 80 different numbers. These were replaced by a single number in October 1996 and the whole system franchised to the private sector. This has seen callers from London answered by operators in South Wales, many of whom are unaware of the local destinations.

Since autumn last year, performance had been steadily climbing towards this target. But figures supplied to Mr Swift showed "a severe fall in performance since April 1997".

A spokesman for Atoc claimed the system was handling a record number of calls. He pointed out that last week more than 910,000 calls were answered.

"Of course we are sorry that our suppliers – which include BT and a number of train companies – have let us and the public down. But we are confident of improving the service," said the spokesman.

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Great TV – but no new shows

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

The much-heralded TV revolution came a step closer yesterday when the Government awarded the licences for digital TV services. But, in spite of the prospect of more than 230 new TV channels, questions were asked about the whether viewers will really see anything new.

British Digital Broadcasting, a coosortium owned by Carlton and Granada, was awarded the licence to broadcast 15 digital pay-TV channels from summer 1998, even though the TV regulator said its rival's programmes were better.

The consortium had been criticised for offering what is already available on satellite and cable: repeats and low-budget or imported programmes.

And the Independent Television Commission admitted, in awarding the franchise, that it was "more attracted by the innovative programme proposals" of the rival bidder, Digital Television Network. It awarded the licence to BDB because it is buying movies and sports channels from BSkyB which will attract more people to digital TV.

The Government wants digital TV to take off so it cao sell the analogue frequencies currently used by television companies to mobile phone companies and other users.

The Independent Television Commission only chose the consortium British Digital Broadcasting (BDB) after it forced Rupert Murdoch's satellite TV company, BSkyB, to drop its one-third shareholding in BDB because of worries about Murdoch's dominance of British television.

Digital television will give viewers CD-quality sound, perfect pictures, including widescreeo movies, and the capacity to receive up to 30 channels, and perhaps as many as 200, by the end of next year. The 15 pay-TV channels awarded yesterday will include channels from BSkyB's existing satellite service such as the popular Sky Sport and Sky Movies to help entice subscribers.

There will be three channels on BDB, created by ao alliance of the BBC with American cable company Flextecb: BBC Horizoo – a documentary and wildlife channel; BBC Style & Sbowcase – a lifestyle cbannel including cookery and gardening programmes; and BBC One-TV, a TV version of Radio 1.

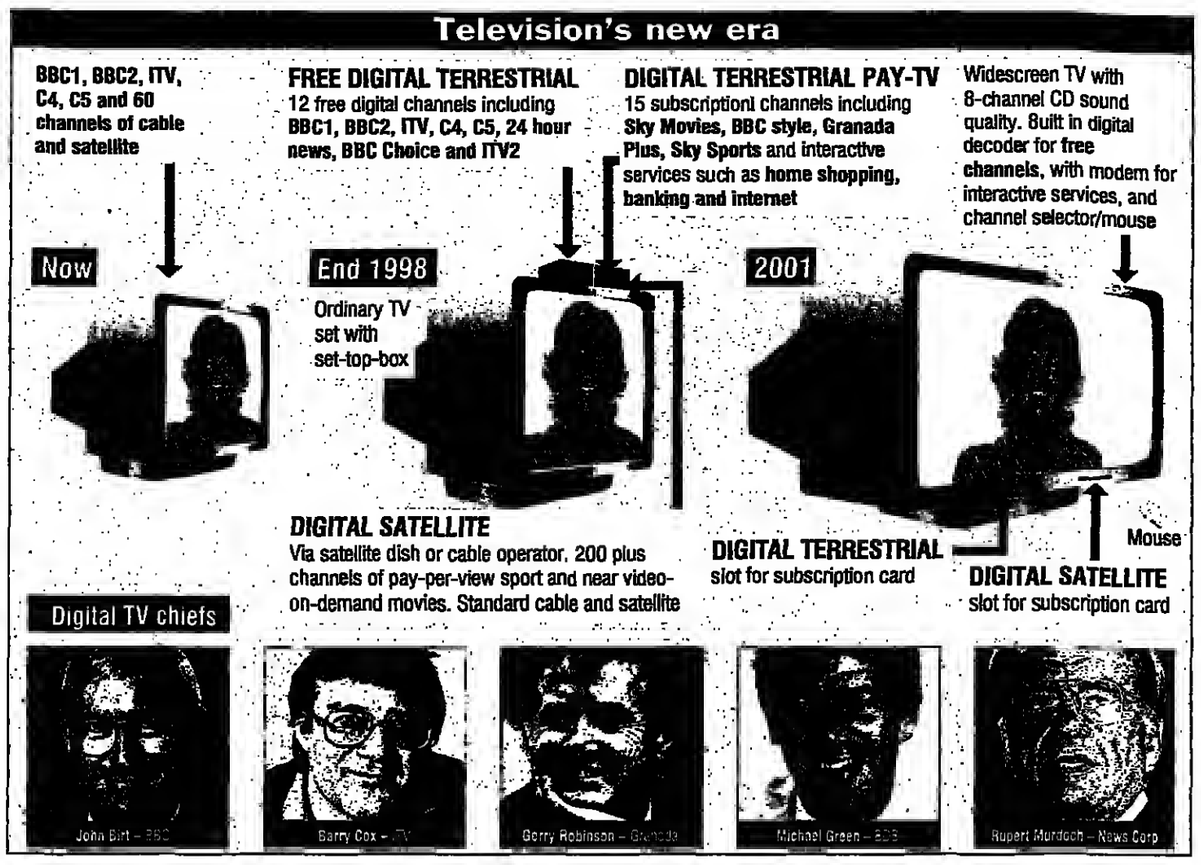
The rest of BDB's channels will be a mixture of channels already available on cable and satellite TV, sucb as Granada Plus, whicb shows classic episodes of Coronation Street, and new channels like Carlton Films. BDB will take up "multiplexes" – groups of frequencies – called B, C and D for its 15 subscription channels.

In additioo to the subscription BDB channels, the BBC, as distinct from BBC/Flextech, will hroadcast BBC1 and BBC2 free on its own multiplex with an extra cbannel, called BBC Choice, providing extended coverage of sporting events and programmes that support the two maio channels For example, a Jane Austen serial oo BBC1 could be followed by a documentary about Jane Austen on BBC Choice. The BBC is also planning a free 24-hour news service for its multiplex.

ITV and Channel 4 will share a multiplex which will show their current two channels, as well as an extra channel called ITV2 supported by advertising, and a subscription-based art-house film cbannel called Channel 4 Film Club.

BDB also plans to supply interactive services such as home shopping, home banking, ticket booking and Internet access because digital TV can broadcast data as well as television.

To receive both the paid-for BDB channels and the free channels viewers will oeed to buy a digital set-top box. These will go on sale next year and are expected to cost around £200.



Premier League to have place of its own

Paul McCann

The Premier League has beeo told it should start its own television channel in 2001 if it wants to extract as much money as possible from live football games.

A report by the League's media consultant, Oliver & Ohlbaum, told club chairmen this month that the £670m they are receiving from BSkyB for the TV rights to the next four football seasons is only half of what their games are worth.

The consultancy says that BSkyB will make £1.3bn from the TV rights aod the league should become a broadcaster in its own right wheo the BSkyB deal ends in 2001.

The Premier League would bave to contract out the making of the football programmes to an experienced productioo company, which television industry experts believe would be simple. The league would also have to lease space oo a satellite to hroadcast the games to subscribers or use the growing digital television spectrum that should be available by 2001.

The consultants estimate that it would cost the Premier League up to £25m to set up its broadcasting service, but that this would be more than covered by cuttiog BSkyB out of the chain and the League taking all the broadcasting revenues itself.

A Premier League spokesman said it was too early to say whether the League would follow its consultant's advice. "This is just one possible option."

Who really won the battle?

POLLY TOYNBEE

So wbo really won the battle for control over the future of digital terrestial broadcasting? We do oot know yet, because as ever, the devil is in the detail. No one has seen the nature of the contracts between Rupert Murdoch and BDB, the winning Carlton/Granada consortium. Their licence depends oo retaining premier sports and movies, so how much leverage power will BSkyB still wield?

BDB were wbooping it up yesterday. They couldn't believe their luck – all this and no Murdoch, now the ITC has cleverly removed him directly from the bid. All the equity is theirs and they still have tbe Sky channels that helped them win. The ITC was plainly convinced by Murdocb's oft-repeated maxim that only his dominant sports and movies can act as the "battering ram" to force viewers to buy into oew technology. "A miracle result!" enthused one leading BDB player. It never occured to them, they said, that the ITC would do anything as imaginative as throwing Murdoch out of the bid, while keeping his cbannels.

Is Murdoch down-hearted? No doubt he would like to have had a one-third control over digital terrestial: be has always wanted a foothold in terrestial televisioo. Oo the other band, he now has to put up oo money and yet his ready-made chanoels will still take out 70 per cent of the revenues. Not bad.

What's more, access to digital television for both satellite and terrestial will still go throogh his set-top box, and all subscribers for pay-TV will still be managed by his subscriber managemeot system. He will still control the electronic programme guide, which decides how easy it is for viewers to access what they want. Will they be unfairly pushed towards watching Sky instead of, say, the BBC? Oftel, the regulator, is confideot fair access can be guaranteed. But BSkyB and BT will be providing the key interactive services, which smacks of monoply too.

Murdoch will still cast a threatening shadow. His channels will now be on cable, satellite and terrestial. Who will have the mooey to bid against him for premier sports and movie rights? BDB claim there is no reason why they should oot, but other seasoned observers oote that Murdoch usually has "No-compete" clauses, or secret understandings in his cootracts. At an off-the-record occasion receotly, a leading BDB player said there would be no "head-on" competition with Sky for these rights.

About this, Oftel is plainly alarmed. In an extraordinary attack oo the ITC, its fellow regulator, Don Cruikshank, the Oftel Director General, fired off a warning statement yesterday raising grave doubts about BDB: "The participation of BSkyB... as a long-term supplier of certain pay-TV services, in particular sports programming, raises substantial competitioo concerns."

Prodded by the Government, the ITC was bold in ejecting Murdoch from a share in ownership. The question now is whether Oftel is right in fearing his market dominance none the less.

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Tories begin to rebuild their party

Redwood refuses to disclose his fund donors

Christian Wolmar and Johanna Montagu

John Redwood is the only Tory leadership candidate refusing to identify the dooors to his campaign fund. All the other contenders will give details of their main contributors to the registrar of members' interests, hut Mr Redwood, shadow minister for trade and industry, will only reveal that Conservative 2000, the right-wing think tank, paid for his campaign. Individual donors will oot have to be listed.

Mr Redwood said last night: "I have checked with the registrar and he says that this is perfectly acceptable. All the mooey went through Conservative 2000 and they have a large membership. It would he ridiculous if everyooe who bought a pamphlet from them had to he listed." Conservative 2000 is run by Hywel Williams. Mr Williams is a close friend of Paul Sykes, the millionaire husinessman who funded Tory candidates at last month's electioo as loog as they promised to oppose a single currency. Mr Sykes hacked Mr Redwood's leadership campaign, but fell out with him over Mr Redwood's support for Ken Clarke.

It is the first time that the candidates for a Tory leadership election will have to reveal the ideotity of substantial donors to their campaigns.

Previously, leadership campaigns of both main parties were carried out without any requirement on the candidates to declare sources of fundiog. However, the registrar of memhers' interests, Roger Willoughby, has advised the candidates that any "substantial donations" will have to be revealed in the register to ensure that no complaints are made against members. The rules are unclear about whether such donations should be declared but Mr Willoughby is keen to avert a situation in which complaints are made. Mr Willoughby refused to be drawn on how much "substantial" means but, for example, Mr Clarke will be releasing details of any donation of £1,000 or over.

While initial estimates suggested that each campaign would cost arouod £10,000, the comhined total bill for all six leadership candidates is likely to be around £250,000, mostly provided by wealthy Tory supporters.

William Hague, who woo the Tory leadership election, spent £84,000, more than any other candidate, on his campaign, including a donation of £20,000 from the managing director of the cootroversial City Mortgage Corporation, David Steene. The City Mortgage Corporation has beeo criticised for charging some clients penal rates of interest but Mr Hague's office said last night he had no comment on the cooceems over City Mortgage Corporation.

The City Mortgage Corporation lends to homeowners who have been turned down by other mortgage lenders under cootracts which allow for increased rates if borrowers fail to make a payment.

Paul Flynn, the Labour MP for Newport West said: "In one case, a man was charged 9 per cent interest until he missed a payment and then it jumped to 18 per cent." The company justifies its higher rates by saying it takes on clients that are higher risk than other lenders.

Mr Hague, whose headquarters were at the offices of Tory MP Jonathan Sayeed, spent heavily oo a round-Britain tour and his biggest backer was Lord Harris, the carpets millionaire, the Tory party's former treasurer. Mr Redwood said his spending, which had oot been finalised, would be "less than William's". Mr Redwood's main expeoditure was on three full-colour pamphlets, the hire of halls and, most expensively, the set used in his press confereoces held in Church House. However, he said: "The bill will come to much less than the amouol speot by William. I did not go on a grand tour round Britain, but made three journeys for meetings."

Mr Clarke said his main source of expenditure was a promotional video. Contrary to previous press reports, Mr Clarke emphasised that he would be publishing full details of the cost of his campaign. He said: "I spent far less than William hut that was not the reason for my defeat. I ran by far the most efficient campaign and was helped by large numbers of student volunteers who received only expenses."

He rented offices in the same building as the left-leaoing Tory think-tank, the Macleod Group. Mr Clarke said that there would only be "one or two" donations above £1,000 that he would need to declare hut the bills were not yet all in.

Peter Lilley, now the shadow chancellor, said in a statement that he spent £27,000 on his campaign and "no single donation was more than £5,000". The accounts would be published "soon".

Michael Howard, now the shadow foreign secretary, said that he would he giving full details to the registrar but the accounts were not yet ready. Mr Howard's biggest backer was Lord Hansen, who also paid for a champagne party for Mr Howard's campaign held io Jonathan Aitken's house.

Stephen Dorrell, who withdrew from the campaign early on, also said he would be releasing details of his accounts.

Sitting tight: Kenneth Clarke with John Redwood, the only leadership candidate refusing to give details of contributors to his campaign Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Hague's backers

Lord Harris	£50,000	William Salomon, director, Rea Brothers	£5,000
David Steene, City Mortgage Corporation	£20,000	Valerie Bright, director, Mother Nature Ltd	£2,000
Jamie Borwick, chief executive Managanese Bronze Holdings	£6,100	Philip Bassett, chartered accountant	£1,000

Asda chief is Hague's moderniser

Archie Norman, the high-powered chairman of the supermarket chain Asda, was yesterday effectively put in charge of the modernisation of the Tory Party by William Hague, *writes Colin Brown*.

Mr Norman, a dynamic businessman who turned around the fortunes of Asda, has been asked to do the same for the Tories by their new leader as part of Mr Hague's wide-ranging appointments to the Tory front bench.

Mr Hague yesterday also paid a surprise visit to Tory headquarters in Smith Square to carry out his own off-the-cuff inspection of Central Office. Lord Parkinson, reappointed as caretaker chairman by Mr Hague, was not there, owing to a "long-standing engagement", said officials.

Mr Norman, 43, elected on 1 May as MP for Tunbridge Wells, has been appointed as a vice chairman of the party, hut he is clearly seen by Mr Hague as a leading caodidate to take over as party chairman from Lord Parkinson to steer the Tories into the election.

Mr Norman has been given the task of analysing the reasons for the decline of the Tory Party in the country, and increasing its membership, although officials laughed off suggestions that the Tories would open a recruitment stall in every hranch of Asda.

Tory leadership sources insisted that Mr Hague had ensured a balance between the right-wing and pro-European supporters of Kenneth Clarke's bid for the leadership. They inclnde Ian Taylor, who was appointed as a front bench spokesman on Northern Ireland under Andrew Mackay.

Gary Streeter, regarded as a Eurosceptic on the left of the party, will take responsibility for European affairs under Michael Howard, the shadow foreign secretary. Another of Mr Clarke's supporters, Michael Jack, was appointed as a shadow minister for health under John Maples..

Gillian Shephard, the shadow Leader of the House, was asked hy Mr Hague to "galvaoise" Tory backbeochers into "helpful activity" in Parliament but to enforce discipline on policy, all the shadow secretaries will take over the chairmanship of the backbench Tory committees, from which tronble over economic policy, Europe and Ireland stemmed in the past.

In a move to "clean the slate", Mr Hague returned to the front bench a number of MPs who were forced to resign in the last Parliament, including Tim Yeo, and David Willetts, who resigned for "dissemhling" to a select committee.

Shadow Cabinet in full

The full list of the Opposition team in Parliament is as follows (with shadow departments in alphabetical order):

Leader: William Hague.
Agriculture Fisheries and Food: David Curry, James Paice.
Constitutional Affairs, Scotland and Wales: Michael Ancram, Liam Fox, Nigel Evans, Bernard Jenkin.
Defence: Sir George Young, Robert Key.
Education and Employment: Stephen Dorrell, David Willetts (Employment), Angela Browning (Education).
Environment, Transport and the Regions: Sir Norman Fowler, Tim Yeo, Christopher Chope.
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs: Michael Howard, Gary Streeter, David Faber.
Health: John Maples, Michael Jack.
Home Affairs: Brian Mawhinney, James Clappison, John Greenway.
Law Officer: Sir Nicholas Lyell.
Shadow Leader of the Commons: Gillian Shephard, Sir Patrick Cormack.
Shadow Leader of the Lords: Viscount Cranborne.
Lord Chancellor's Department: Lord Kingsland, Edward Garnier.
National Heritage: Francis Maude, Patrick Nicholls.
International Development: Alastair Goodlad.
Northern Ireland: Andrew Mackay, Ian Taylor.
Social Security: Iain Duncan Smith, Simon Burns.
Trade and Industry: John Redwood, Michael Fallon, Cheryl Gillan.
Treasury: Peter Lilley, David Heathcoat-Amory, Tim Boswell.
Whips (Commons): John Arbuthnot, Peter Ainsworth, Patrick McLoughlin, Richard Ottaway, Malcolm Moss.
Whips (Lords): Lord Strathclyde.
Conservative Central Office: Chairman, Lord Parkinson; **Deputy chairman,** Michael Trend; **Vice-chairmen,** Alan Duncan, Archie Norman.

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Blair handed new Bloody Sunday file

Alan Murdoch
Duhlin

The Irish government yesterday handed the British government its file of new evidence on the 1972 Bloody Sunday shootings in Londonderry.

A letter passed to the Prime Minister yesterday from John Brutoo, the Irish Prime Minister, called the original inquiry report into the shootings by Lord Chief Justice Widgery "deeply unsatisfactory and did not represent the truth of what happened".

The move underlined Duhlin's latest effort to obtain a British declaration that 14 people shot by British troops were innocent of claims that they were killed while handling guns or explosives.

The move will be one of Mr Brutoo's last as Irish premier, a post expected to pass to the Fianna Fail leader Bertie Ahern when the Dail meets tomorrow for the first time since the Irish general election earlier this month.

In March, Dublin decided to withhold the file from the outgoing Conservative government, fearing it would bury the report aod ignore its poteotially explosive implicatioos about the conduct of the Widgery inquiry.

The Irish evideoce is believed to include claims made hy a British Army paratrooper that his testimony for Widgery was replaced by a prepared version not written by him, appareotly to avert the risk of the Army facing the legal and political repercussions that would arise if an admission were made of shooting unarmed civilians.

If this claim is upheld it would undermine the position maintained by previous British governments which have ruled out official apologies, prosecutions and compensation payments. Mr Blair and Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam are said to be sympathetic to a re-examination of the events of Bloody Sunday.

The soldier's evidence says on the night before Bloody Sunday, paratroopers were hriefed by a senior officer who told them "Let's teach these huggers some lessons. We want some kills." He also said some soldiers used illicit stocks of dum-dum bullets, and were therefore ahle to show they still had their official quota of standard-issue hullets after the killings.

Dum-dum hullets, which are outlawed under the Gooeva convention, spread oo impact, causing massive injuries. A coroner confirmed one of the dead had shrapnel fragments in his head. Standard hullets would not normally leave such complex wounds.

The Widgery report, published in April 1972, controversially held that soldiers had been responding to shots fired at them. Bloody Sunday provoked outrage in Ireland and internationally, with the then Irish government under Jack Lynch declaring a day of mourning. In Dublin, *gardai* stood back as an angry crowd burned down the British embassy.

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Parents of dead boy are offered fresh hope of justice

Glimmer of hope: Doreen and Neville Lawrence taking questions after their meeting yesterday with the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, who said he would consider their request for a judicial review into their teenage son's murder

Patricia Wynn Davies
Legal Affairs Editor

The parents of the murdered London teenager Stephen Lawrence were giveo fresh hope yesterday for a judicial inquiry into his death.

A new investigation into the killing of the 18-year-old black student could be launched after discussions between his pareots and Jack Straw, the Homc Secretary.

Mr Straw said after the meeting at the Home Office – the first with the family since be took office – that there was a "strong case" for the judicial inquiry reqnested by Neville and Doreen Lawrence.

Mrs Lawrence said after the meeting that the family had lost confidence in the police and the legal system. "What we want to find out is the truth of what went on that night. The only way we're going to find out is through a judicial inquiry. A police inquiry is not enough." A cautious Mrs Lawrence added: "There was no clear indication. He said from what we put to him there was a case, but where he is going to go with it I have no idea."

The family's solicitor, Imran Khan, said: "I think we all came away feeling very positive that we will have some inquiry in future." Mr Straw said in a statement later: "It is oot an option to let this matter rest. I recognise a strong case has been made by Mrs Lawrence for some form of inquiry and I am actively considering what she put to me."

He added that he would carefully consider other issues raised in the meeting and "reflect upoo the best way to address the widespread concern resulting from this case."

The Lawrence family says the inquiry must address the role of the police after the Crown Prosecution Service discontinued a prosecution for lack of evidence, and a private prosecution collapsed because of insufficient evidence and the inadmissibility of the evidence of a key witness.

Last February, an inquest jury returned a verdict that Stephen had been unlawfully killed in an unprovoked racist attack by five white youths. After the inquest ruling the *Daily Mail* named the five young men as Stephen's killers, challenging them to sue for libel if the paper was wrong.

In March, the Lawrence family made an official complaint over the way police investigated the murder, claiming they did not take it seriously. And earlier this month, Tony Blair pledged to hunt down the killers, saying there was a "deep sense of injustice" that they had not been brought to book.

The quest for truth

April 1993: Stephen Lawrence stabbed to death at a bus stop in Eltham, south-east London.

July 1993: Crown Prosecution Service says insufficient evidence to continue with prosecution.

April 1994: Private prosecution launched.

September 1995: Cases against two young men dropped because of insufficient evidence.

April 1996: Private prosecution finally collapses. Identification evidence relating to three youths ruled inadmissible, leading to acquittals.

February 1997: Inquest verdict of unlawful killing.

MPs scorn the new discipline of Labour

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

The Labour Party is being run by "control freaks" operating a "take it or leave it" democracy, a backbench MP has claimed. The attack by Alan Simpson, left-wing MP for Nottingham South, on Tony Blair's latest round of modernisation proposals could revive threats of disciplinary action made against him last year.

In an article for July's *Red Pepper* magazine, he says party democracy is being destroyed. Labour is to become an American-style Democratic party, with Mr Blair as president and with iron discipline at its heart, he says. "It doesn't matter whether this is what Tony Blair wants. The control freaks now running the party demand that this is the final prize," he writes. "This 'take it or leave it' democracy has become a feature of how the party is now ruled." He adds: "No amount of 'Bill and Hillary' style phone-ins, hand-shaking or encounter groups create a firm basis for a socialist democratic party." The Prime Minister should have put the redistribution of wealth, better pensions and the creation of jobs before his plans to "tinker" with the machinery of his party, he says.

The document, due to be put to the Labour Party conference in October despite moves to put off the debate for a year, would represent "the final domestication of the party itself," Mr Simpson's article says. Mr Simpson was marked out as a troublemaker in December after supporting a Socialist Workers Party petition attacking the Labour leadership. He was also criticised for his Euro-sceptic views and for attacking the "hypocrisy" of Harriet Harman in sending her son to a selective school.

After maintaining a discreet silence throughout the election, he has now apparently decided to speak out again, focusing this time on the "Labour into Power" proposals to downgrade the role of the party conference and to make policy through "forums." Last night party sources said the "cumulative" effect of his latest offeoce added to others could be cause for disciplinary action.

Last night Mr Simpson said his comments were meant to be a positive contribution to a genuine debate on the future running of the party. "I have drawn a lot of comfort from John Prescott's explanation that *Labour is a democratic socialist* party and that the discussion of ideas is its lifeblood," he said. "I don't think I am out of line. I just try to get in line early."

In a separate development another dissenting Labour MP, Llew Smith, said he had been threatened with expulsion if he campaigned against a Welsh assembly. The member for Blaenau Gwent, a long-time opponent of devolution, said he had complained to the chief whip about the behaviour of the Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies.

Ministers have warned that the devolution vote in the Commons later this year will be seen as a test of loyalty, but yesterday Mr Davies denied Mr Smith's charge. "Let me assure you there's no question of threats at all, that's not in my nature," he told the BBC.

Spare the rod and spoil the party – the whip's dilemma

DONALD MACINTYRE

Someone like Alan Simpson poses the disciplinarians of oew Labour with a dilemma. To withdraw the whip for his attack would be an exemplary punishment, and would no doubt deter some more timid souls who might be thinking of doing a little left-wing grandstanding of their own. And since the left in the Labour Party is so marginalised at present, there probably wouldn't be much sympathy from bis colleagues.

But that's also the problem. The left lack a place to go in the modern Labour Party. By virtue of their numbers, and sometimes the weight and charisma of their leadership, the Bevanites of the Fifties, the Tribunites of the Sixties and Seventies, and the Bennites of the early 1980s, were able to influeoce the party's policy, organisation aod leadership by using their strength, often behind closed doors, within the Parliamentary Party and National Executive machines.

For the foreseeable future, at least, that route simply doesn't exist in a party most of whose enormous majority has such a clear sense of how they owe their presence to Tony Blair.

Which leaves publicity as the left's only weapon. The one lesson from the last six years of Tory backbench anarchy is that the surest way to get on to television or radio is to attack the leadership. This is seductive for those who disagree with almost every aspect of the platform oo which they were elected, but have no power to influence the leader. Perhaps seductive also, in the future, for a few of those MPs with highly unsafe seats, little prospect of promotion and a desperate need to acquire a public profile.

And that's the dilemma for the whips: by taking disciplinary action they risk making them martyrs who have nothing to lose by maximum publicity. By not taking it they leave them free to seek the publicity anyway.

A lot of what Simpson says is nonsense. He argues, for example, that the great virtue of party conference decisions in the past – in favour of "restoring the value of the state pension" or the "elimination of nuclear weapons" was that a Labour government at least knew the goals of, to use his rather misty-eyed description, "the party in the country." Actually it often didn't tell it much more than how the executives of a handful of big unions, liberally sprinkled with members of another party altogether like the Communists, had chosen to wield their enormous block votes.

There is also a huge difference betweeo conviction backbenchers who dissent on issues they passionately care about, and those, like Simpson, who disagree with many fundamental elements of the programme which secured him his majority of more than 13,000.

But that isn't a case for overusing the disciplinary weapoo. A strong party can stand a certain amount of nonsense. One reason why the Tory backbeoch rebels did so much damage was oot merely the spectacle of division they created, hut the strong, and frequently accurate, impression they gave of exerting influence on the party's leadership. Nobody thinks Tony Blair is going to soften his party reforms because of an article in *Red Pepper*.

So it's a matter of judgement. To crack down on Simpson now would give him a ready-made platform as a Blair victim. To let him go scot-free might look weak leadership. Which is why it's unlikely to happen.

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news

Gallery guide: Grading scheme will help to raise funds but bid to stop entry fees fails, **writes David Lister**

Nation's best displays get league table

Photograph: Brian Harris

Singled out: The entrance of the Fitzwilliam, Cambridge, one of 26 British museums to be designated of 'pre-eminent importance'

The Government has for the first time graded the nation's museums, selecting 26 as being of "pre-eminent" importance to the national heritage.

The objective of the league table, an idea of the last government, is to acknowledge publicly the best museums to help them raise more public and private funds. For that reason the national museums and galleries were not eligible for inclusion, as they are deemed to have a high enough national profile to attract private sponsors and public subsidy.

Yesterday Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, unveiled the list of museums awarded Designated Status. Collections ranged from fine arts to London buses and musical instruments. The museums singled out for praise include names such as the Fitzwilliam in Cambridge as well as lesser-known institutions including the Rural History Centre, Reading, and the National Tramway Museum, Derbyshire.

Speaking as he presented the first designation certificate, to the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden, known for its red buses, Mr Smith said the scheme would focus attention on outstanding museums. But there was unlikely to be much government money in the near future. "What designation brings is a status which makes museums attractive for a range of different funding, some of which may be in the private sector or the public sector, or the semi-public sector, such as Lottery money."

The list of museums includes 10 science and technology collections, nine social history museums, as well as archaeology, fine arts, decorative arts and natural science displays.

The Stoke-on-Trent Museum Service was designated for its collections on the history of the pottery industry, while the Tyne and Wear Museum was recognised for its collection representing industries around Newcastle. In London, the Jewish Museum, in Camden, was recognised because, although small, it held key collections promoting understanding of Jewish ritual in this country, a spokesman for the Heritage Department said.

The Museums and Galleries Commission director, Timothy Mason, said the scheme was a "celebration of some of the superb museums that we have. It's particularly good to see it's not only the big museums which are being recognised, but some of the smaller ones which are nevertheless important, such as the Rural History Centre in Reading."

Mr Smith said work was also beginning on a scheme to recognise smaller museums with local importance.

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Museums to ignore call for free entry

Charges: Natural History Museum Photograph: Brian Harris

National museums are likely to ignore Government calls to scrap admission charges.

The arts minister, Mark Fisher, surprised the House of Commons this week by announcing an urgent review into the growing practice of charging. But Government sources said yesterday that there was little if any scope to increase the amount of public money that goes to museums. If charges were to be axed, the shortfall would have to be made up by increased commercial activities and increased private sponsorship.

The Government's antipathy to museum charges was signalled by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, before the election. However, the Government does not have any statutory power to end charges and, without an increase in grant-in-aid, the national museums that do charge are certain to tell Mr Fisher that they have already made every effort to secure business sponsorship and are exploiting their commercial outlets to the full.

A spokesman at the Department of National Heritage confirmed that the Government could only urge museum trustees to re-think their policies.

Mr Fisher told the Commons: "We do not want anyone to be charged entry to national museums and galleries ... The Government believes that all members of the community should be able to enjoy our great national museums and galleries: they should be for the many, not just the few. We are concerned about the growth of charging and are reviewing present arrangements urgently."

But yesterday, Neil Chalmers, director of the Natural History Museum, which charges £6 per adult and is the most popular "paying" museum in the country, said: "We will tell Mr Fisher that the abolition of museum charges without compensation would be the single most damaging thing that could be done in denying access. It would mean certain of our galleries closing and possibly the entire museum closing on some days of the week."

Mr Fisher is to meet the directors and trustees of all the national museums and ask them what other options they can consider if they end admission charges. He will want to know why some institutions can get by without charging while others cannot.

He has already met the chairman and director of the British Museum, whose trustees recently decided not to impose charges.

Of the national galleries and museums only the Tate Gallery, National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery and British Museum do not charge.

Museums that do charge include the Natural History Museum, Victoria and Albert, Science Museum, Imperial War Museum and National Maritime Museum. Most charge around £5 a head but all have concessionary schemes for children and pensioners, allow school groups in free, and some have allotted times when anyone can get in free.

It is not clear whether the public shares the Government's concern about charging. Mr Fisher will be told by the Victoria and Albert Museum that its visitor numbers actually went up after introducing compulsory admission charges of £5 last year. In addition, the museum's research among visitors shows that less than 5 per cent shared campaigners' worries about charging.

A spokeswoman said: "If Mr Fisher can come up with an alternative to charging to meet the shortfall in our budget, all well and good. But we don't know of one."

In the Commons Mr Fisher said: "National galleries and museums are in their current position because of the neglect and the hostile policies of the previous government." But he gave no indication of how the Labour government could ensure that museums would make up the shortfall if they abolished charges.

Leading article, page 15

Too many women in jail: inspector

Patricia Wynn Davies
Legal Affairs Editor

Prison is not the right place for pregnant women who pose little risk to the public, Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, said yesterday.

Sir David was expressing concerns about the number of women in jails, including pregnant women convicted of non-violent crimes, during BBC radio interviews. "I don't think prison is the right place anyway to have them because they're confined conditions. They don't have as much access to open air as I would like," he said.

There are about 2,500 women in jails in England and Wales. Sir David said: "It's a pretty restrictive environment in which to conduct the first period of a child's life, quite apart from inevitable problems of looking after the mother in the immediate aftermath. Personally, what I think is that one has got to be very careful in deciding whether these women actually need to be in prison anyway. They're hardly likely to constitute a great risk to the public if they're released."

His remarks follow the controversy over the shackling of pregnant women with handcuffs and chains during hospital treatment. The prisoner whose treatment first highlighted the practice, Annette Walker, 31, has since begun a legal action for injury and distress against the Home Office. Pregnant prisoners are now released from handcuffs on arrival at hospital.

Ann Widdecombe, the former prisons minister, warned that special treatment for pregnant prisoners could be abused.

But Sir David got backing from Paul Cavadino, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, who said: "Prison is a stressful place in which to go through pregnancy and ante-natal care. The alternative course of separating women prisoners from their children can be devastating for the mother and have damaging long-term effects on the child."

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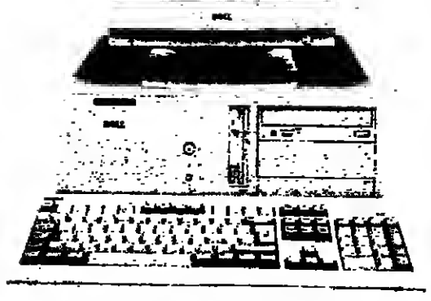

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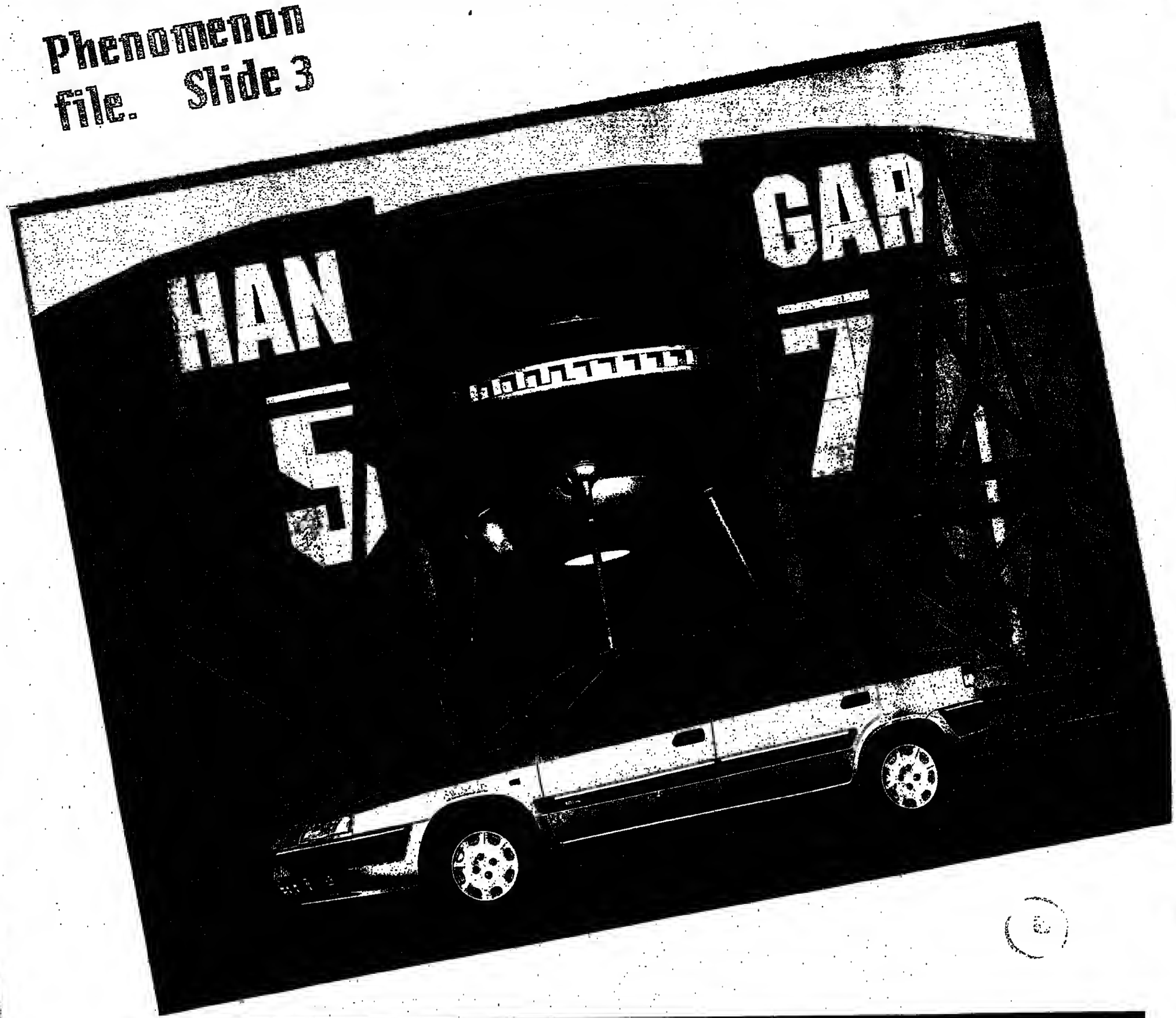

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news

Nineties Britain: a generation divided

Glenda Cooper reports on the rise of a growing underclass among twentysomethings

Twentysomething Britain is a divided society where the gap between the haves and have nots becomes increasingly distinct, and a definite underclass is emerging.

A survey of 9,000 people born in the same week in 1970 describes the twentysomething as a political cynic who nevertheless believes strongly in family values, tough policies on law and order and firm commitment to the work ethic.

Professor John Brynner, director of the Social Statistics Research Unit at City University in London, who carried out the survey sees them as far from radical. They are increasingly conservative with views indistinguishable from their parents – except that Labour is now the party of the thinking classes and women have deserted the Tories in droves. Support among women has halved since 1991.

Professor Brynner, who will present his findings at an Economic and Social Research Council conference today has classified today's twentysomethings as either "getting on", "getting by", or "getting nowhere". He said: "The most significant difference with today's 26-year-olds compared with an earlier cohort born in 1958 is the emergence of a group of unskilled men and women who face a grim future, trapped in a vicious downward spiral. The job market for these people has collapsed and youth training schemes have failed to equip them for the few jobs that do exist."

John Major's classless society has not been realised as the polarisation increases. Social class is still the most important link to success – there is now a tenfold difference in the chances of becoming high earners between the children of fathers in professional and managerial classes compared to children of unskilled workers and the unemployed. Qualifications also play a huge part – those with a degree earned on average 25 per cent more than those without.

The "getting on" group tended to have gone to university, which equipped them with the qualifications to do well in managerial and professional careers. There was little gender difference – well-qualified able 26-year-old women were as likely to be in high-powered jobs as their male peers – providing they were still childless. Such young people "had thrown themselves into work and the pursuit of success, postponing the responsibilities of partnership and parenthood" said the report.

Those "getting by" had fewer qualifications and tend to be in ordinary jobs with limited prospects, working long hours for modest wages and were mostly in committed relationships. The picture was bleaker for those with children with both parents likely to have poorer qualifications, lower status jobs and less likely to own their own homes.

But the "group that must become the focus of government policy ... We ignore them at our peril" is the "getting nowhere" group whose members had no qualifications, were on benefits and had not picked up any marketable skills from training schemes. They are restricted to poorly paid and highly insecure work. "They have neither the personal resources, nor skills to even get into the game," warned Professor Brynner. "They are becoming marginalised by society and need to be provided with the means to rejoin it. These young people were really getting nowhere and nowhere is becoming a much harder place to be."

■ Housework is still off the agenda for New Man, the ESRC conference will be told today. When a woman takes a full-time job she typically decreases her housework by 10 hours, while her husband will increase his contribution to compensate. The net effect is for the woman to increase her total hours of paid and unpaid work by 25 hours. In contrast if a man gets a full-time job he reduces his contribution to housework by five hours and his wife increases it by the same amount.

Budding entrepreneurs: Miranda Birtles (left) and Melissa Larken, in the office of their magazine, *The Resident* Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

'It's typical of our generation to delay on marriage'

THE HAVES

Melissa Larken, 27, and Miranda Birtles, 26, were straight out of university when they set up their free, glossy magazine *The Resident*. Distributed through the letterboxes of Chelsea, Knightsbridge and their environs, it covers "lifestyle", with features on Sir Terence Conran's new Bluebird restaurant and the skeletons in Alan Clark's cupboard.

The pair graduated while the recession was still biting and decided to do something different. They started off with "one telephone and a telephone directory". They managed to raise £15,000 to finance the first issue and *The Resident* took off from there. Now they have an office on the Fulham Road in west London, employ several people and bring the magazine out bi-monthly with a print-run of 35,000. Contributors to the magazine include Elizabeth Hurley, Jeffrey Bernard, Sheridan Morley and Barbara Cartland while advertisers include Coutts' bank, Peter Jones, BMW and Mercedes Benz.

Their degrees from Durham and UCL in psychology and anthropology were "completely irrelevant subjects" but they think university was important for job prospects. "When you leave university you are often more adaptable than when you leave school: you know the necessity of economic discipline. I think the time you spend there is beneficial," says Melissa.

"A degree isn't everything," adds Miranda. "In this market, confidence is extremely valuable as degrees are no longer a guaranteed passport to a job."

They see work experience as a vital step. "For the employer it is a source of free labour," says Melissa. "But it's something you have to invest a lot of time in and it can be very useful for the person at the end."

Both describe themselves as "single". "At the moment the magazine is all-consuming. I just haven't got time," says Melissa. "It's typical of our generation to delay on marriage and families."

As yet *The Resident* has not made them a fortune – they pay themselves a "graduate salary", but they say "it's early days" and are confident that they will strike paydirt when they are ready to sell the magazine to one of the major publishing companies.

Get up and go, the need to go out there and achieve things by yourself, is, they think, typical of their generation, who have spent the majority of their lives under a Thatcherite government.

'In 20 years' time I'd like to have a full-time job'

THE HAVE NOT

If there is one thing David Jowsey hates it is people who assume that those without work are lazy: "It's just an excuse they make because the Government has messed it up." But he is well aware that leaving school at 16 with no qualifications means that his chances of a job are slim.

He moved out of home into bed and breakfast after difficulty with his parents while on a youth training scheme: "But it was difficult to pay for living there when I was on a scheme and I ended up on the street. I couldn't keep up with payments and I ended up sleeping rough for a couple of weeks."

He did that until a relative let him stay for a while. Now he is back in another bed and breakfast organised by the council. His training scheme involved working on a milk round but, being homeless, he dropped out of the scheme. He had hoped to work towards a National Vocational Qualification in business administration. He managed to get a three-month contract doing manual labour but is now back on the dole.

David, 20, is getting married next year, to someone he met at The Base, a Barnado's drop-in centre for 16-25-year-olds, he attends in Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear. While he supports tough measures on crime, he feels that sometimes it's understandable.

David Jowsey: Slim prospects

"People are sometimes forced to do it to eat. If they mess up your claim it takes two weeks before it's sorted out and it's not even your fault. I think it's getting worse for young people today. Benefit is cut in half for the under-25s and yet we're still meant to live on it ... I get £37.90 a week, but I only survive because I get money from families and friends."

He feels more education and training is the answer, but says there should be more variety in the schemes. He wants to work, for a living but he is not sure how this will be achieved. "In 20 years' time – I'd like to have a full-time job. I would like to be a social worker, or do something to help other people."

Top students turned away

Judith Judd
Education Editor

Top A-level students are being turned down without interview by universities as competition for places intensifies, according to a survey published yesterday.

The survey of 15,000 candidates in independent schools found a 20 per cent increase in the number of excellent applicants rejected without interview compared with the previous year.

The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference and the Girls' Schools Association, which include the most academic fee-paying schools, say some candidates who are expected to achieve three As do not get a single offer.

Nearly 500 candidates, many of who were predicted to get three A grades, were turned down without interview. Most were applying to study popular subjects such as English, medicine, history, law and physiotherapy. One university had 4,000 candidates for 96 places in history and another had 384 for five places in English.

Candidates for medicine with predictions of four A grades are sometimes turned down if they fail to get into Oxbridge. Some top candidates receive only one offer.

Both new and old universities are rejecting very bright students in some subjects, say the independent school heads who compiled the survey.

They accept that universities are under pressure because of the explosion in the numbers entering higher education. The proportion of candidates who are interviewed has fallen sharply. But anecdotal evidence suggests that the most popular departments are filling up their places with bright candidates before the official deadline for applications.

Janet Lawley, head of Bury Grammar School for Girls and co-chairman of the working party, said: "For a small but significant number of very able candidates these rejections cause a lot of distress. They would feel that they had been seriously considered if they were interviewed."

Dr Philip Cheshire, head of Warwick School, the other co-chairman, said: "The Government has introduced a strategy for large numbers of people to go into higher education but the system is not really geared to cope with it."

The heads say that they believe a new system in which everyone applied after receiving their results would be fairer.

■ Ministers will today announce plans for new school examination league tables which will show how schools have improved and put results in context.

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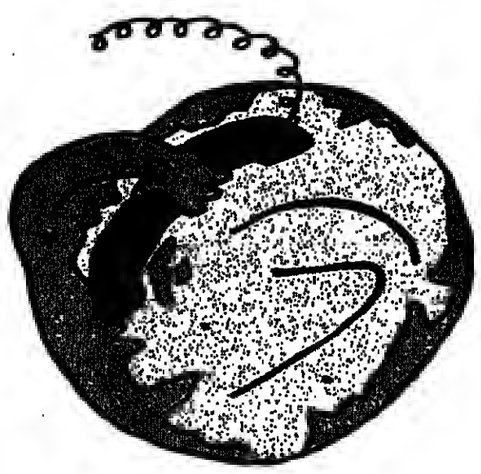

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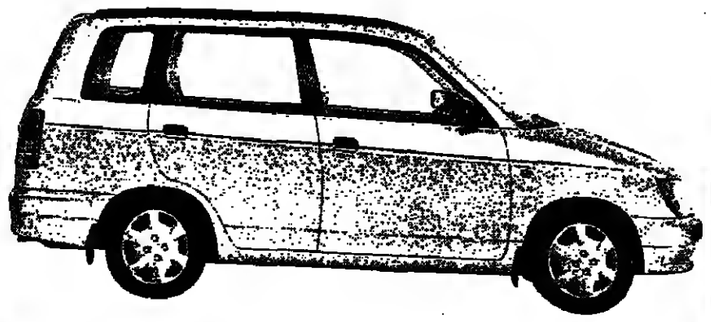

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Showdown looms as council refuses to go quietly

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong
Teresa Poole
Peking

The incoming Hong Kong administration and pro-democracy protesters are heading for a confrontation on the night of the handover to Chinese rule. About 20 members of the current legislature plan to address a rally from the balcony of the Legislature Council, where they will say they support reunification but oppose disbanding the council and replacing it with a body of unelected members.

Yesterday the office of Tung Chee-hwa, the chief executive-designate, said the balcony "might not be an appropriate venue" for the councillors, who will be kicked out of office after midnight on Monday. An alternative site has been proposed but Yeung Sum, the Democratic Party's deputy leader, insisted other venues would not be acceptable. "We will go ahead as planned." The provisional legislature said "careful consideration should be given to whether propaganda activities by political parties, such as the delivery of manifestos, should take place in the Legco [Legislative Council] building."

The outgoing legislature has taken the bull by the horns and approved changes to the criminal code which add the offences of secession and subversion to laws against treason and sedition but ensured charges could only be laid against those engaged in violence.

It was seen as an attempt to pre-empt China's insistence on introduction of new, possibly wide-ranging laws to outlaw subversion and secession.

China and its supporters in the provisional legislature had said the outgoing regime had no business making laws on the matter but Margaret Ng, the lawyers' representative in the legislature, said councillors should not fear China invalidating the new law but should worry about throwing "away safeguards of liberty because we do not take things sufficiently seriously".

Governor Chris Patten, speaking after the last meeting of his Executive Council, or cabinet, said the new law "provides a very helpful benchmark" for the incoming administration. He could not see why China would want to abolish it.

After Hong Kong's protests against the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown, China insisted on introducing laws against subversion and having them incorporated in the territory's mini-constitution. It is almost certain therefore that the new law will be scrapped. It was announced yesterday that Mr Tung will be given the same remuneration package as Mr Patten, including trips home. Unlike Mr Patten, Mr Tung, "as a local person", will pay income tax.

In a guarded overture, China yesterday held out the possibility of warmer ties with Britain after 1 July.

"With the transfer of Hong Kong, the problem left by history will be solved and a good opportunity is on offer for the improvement of bilateral relations," said the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Cui Tiankai.

"We wish for both countries to adopt the principle of 'looking forward', strengthen co-operation and take Sino-British relations into a new era." The notion that wrangles over Hong Kong will no longer cloud Sino-British relations looks over-optimistic. Peking considers that any foreign pressure over developments in Hong Kong after 1 July amounts to "meddling in China's internal affairs".

However, London's view of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, which will exist for another two-and-a-half years, is definitely as a body through which Britain will be monitoring China's adherence to the treaty under which it has resumed sovereignty over Hong Kong.

Mr Patten greeting Jennifer Murray, who is halfway through an attempt to fly around the world by helicopter

Market forces: Customers scrambling for bargains in the Causeway Bay area of Hong Kong Island, a popular shopping area for young Hong Kongers who have only known a free-market economy Photograph: David Rose

Ringing up the tills as 1997 rings in the changes

Steve Crawshaw
Hong Kong

Many Hong Kongers are not particularly excited. On the contrary: they seem in almost shoulder-shrugging indifferent mood, ahead of the handover to China in five days' time. But the territory's canny businessmen more than make up for the enthusiasm which ordinary people sometimes lack.

Stores all over the colony have devoted themselves to the handover, with special offers in abundance. Many hotels – which notoriously doubled or even tripled their prices, and therefore still have rooms available – have set special package prices at HK$1997.00 (around £160) per night. The poshest venues offer just dinner for the same price. Handover cocktails are sold for $19.97. Even Marks & Spencer has joined in the rush, advertising champagne at the reduced price of $199.7 a bottle.

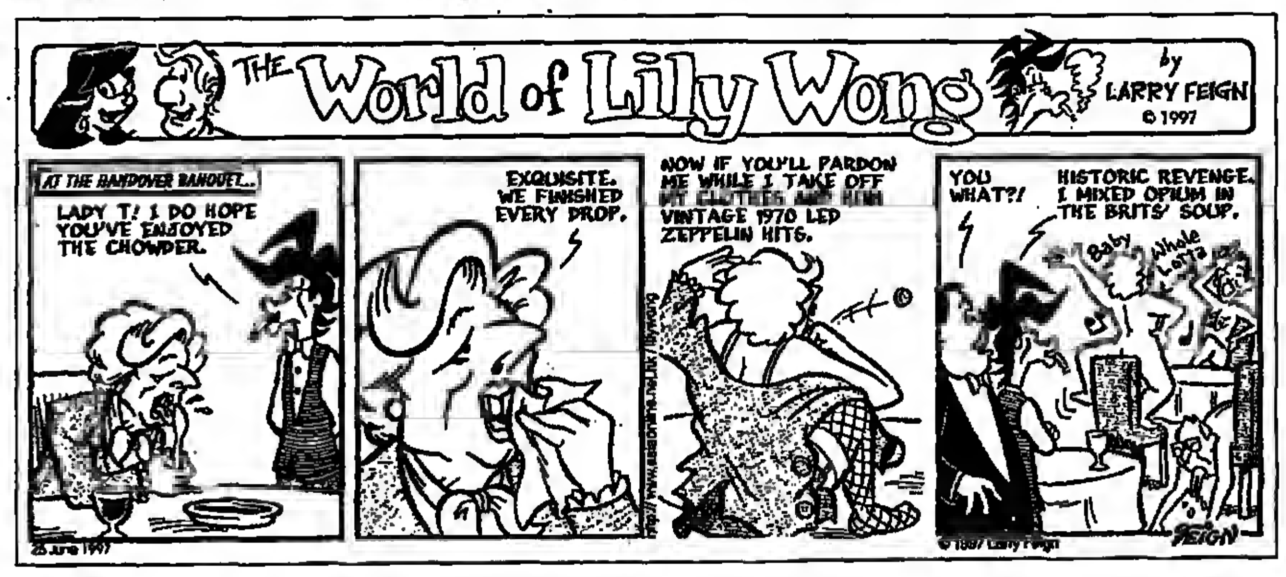
Nor are the retailers the only people to go crazy. The environmentally-minded have a chance too: there will be a ceremonial planting of 1,997 trees. The fireworks display on 1 July is already billed as being the biggest and most expensive ever.

In the next few days there will be a crawling marathon for 1,997 babies. The fastest gets a prize. But the grand prize goes to the crawler who is selected by the computer to have entry number ... yes, 1997. The 1997 baby will, the organisers say, enjoy "great happiness"; 1997, it seems, is briefly deemed to be even luckier than the famed 888.

One would hate to suggest that the commercial organisers of the crawlathon might be seeking to gain brownie points with Peking. But it is interesting to note that the first name on the list of honoured guests is Sun Nan Sheng, head of the propaganda department at Xinhua News Agency, Peking's *de facto* embassy in Hong Kong.

For some, politics are everywhere, even if sometimes overlaid with a touch of irony: Shanghai Tang, a store owned by tycoon and socialite David Tang, announces in its windows: "1997: the Chinese Empire Strikes Back".

For others, politics remain strictly secondary. A 1997 time capsule includes the usual obligatory newspapers. But the blurb for the capsule, whose contents is currently on display, emphasises that it contains "items that define and characterise an era in Hong Kong". These include: an Hermès scarf; a Gucci handbag; and a Dolce & Gabbana trouser suit. It seems reasonable enough. Nothing, after all, could be more distinctively Hong Kong than a pile of designer accessories and clothes.



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UK invites Suharto's generals to arms bazaar

Richard Lloyd Parry

Weeks after it announced a new "ethical dimension" to foreign policy, and Robin Cook the Foreign Secretary promised to "put human rights at the heart of foreign policy", the Government has invited three senior officers of the notorious Indonesian Armed Forces (Abri) to a sales exhibition of British arms equipment.

John Spellar, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, confirmed this week that General Feisal Tanjung, the Indonesian Commander in Chief, has been officially invited to the Royal Navy and British Army Equipment Exhibition at Farnborough in September. Included on the invitation are the chiefs of staff of the army and navy, General Wiranto and Admiral Kushariadi. The Indonesian embassy was unable to say yesterday whether they had decided to attend.

Apart from their physical role in suppressing internal dissent in Indonesia, Indonesia's armed forces wield huge political influence and have played a crucial part in supporting the regime of President Suharto, a former general who has held power for more than 30 years. They have been accused of human rights abuses that include torture and murder, especially in the occupied territory of East Timor. Under the Conservative government, the Indonesian armed forces were enthusiastic purchasers of British arms, from water cannons and armoured cars, to tanks and Hawk fighter jets.

Since the election, there has been speculation that new Labour would take a tougher stand on Indonesia, particularly after a speech last month by Mr Cook, which promised to "put human rights at the heart of our foreign policy".

Yesterday, the Labour MP Ann Clwyd, whose parliamentary question revealed the invitation, said she would be raising the matter in Parliament. "It does seem to show a certain inconsistency," she said. "As I understand it, the arms trade with Indonesia is under review, but if you invite someone to an arms exhibition, clearly you hope to sell them arms. These people will not be coming just for a cup of tea."

General Tanjung's wish to visit London was revealed by *The Independent* on Monday, but a Foreign Office spokesman denied all knowledge of it.

The Government suffered a similar embarrassment earlier this month when visas were issued to three senior Iraqi officials, including the country's oil minister, to visit London on official business. After behind the scenes objections from within his party, the visas were withdrawn at the last minute by the Foreign Office junior minister, Derek Fatchett.

Indonesia aid puts Labour to the test

Richard Lloyd Parry and Liz Chong

Pressure is mounting on Clare Short, the Minister for International Development, to cut off British aid to Indonesia, in keeping with the Government's commitment to human rights and an "ethical" foreign policy.

Campaign groups and Labour MPs, including Ann Clwyd, the former Shadow minister responsible for Ms Short's portfolio, are pressing for a suspension of aid to Jakarta in the light of evidence that the Conservative government used it as a means of acquiring contracts, including arms sales, for British firms.

"Clare Short says that we are going to focus on aid to the poorest people in the world, and by that measure Indonesia shouldn't be getting any aid at all," Mrs Clwyd said yesterday. "Indonesia is not one of the world's poorest countries and there is no evidence that British aid in the past has been targeted at those who need it most."

Paul Barber of Tapol, a human rights group focusing on Indonesia, said: "The very fact that the UK supports Indonesia is wrong, because it helps to legitimise the Indonesian regime."

On Monday, *The Independent* reported an appeal to Tony Blair from Indonesia's leading dissident, the imprisoned trade union leader Muchtar Pakpahan, to discontinue all aid projects unless they contain specific guarantees of human rights.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, will no doubt face similar appeals when he meets next month with Jose Ramos-Horta, who shared last year's Nobel Peace Prize for his work as the spokesman-in-exile for the occupied territory of East Timor. In America, Congressman Patrick Kennedy is sponsoring a Bill proposing to cut off aid and military training for Indonesia unless human rights improve.

In a few weeks, the newly constituted Parliamentary Accounts Committee will consider a report by the National Audit

Clare Short: Attacked political considerations of aid policy

Office on aid to Indonesia. Published last November, it uncovered advice from the Foreign Office that particular aid projects should be supported because this would help British arms sales to Jakarta.

After similar arms-for-aid allegations concerning Overseas Development Administration (ODA) assistance to Malaysia, the former foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, was found by the High Court to have acted unlawfully in approving funding for the Pergau Dam project. The Department of International Development, as the ODA is now known, is preparing a White Paper reviewing British aid, which it hopes to complete by the autumn. Publicly, spokesmen are reluctant to reveal advance details, although Ms Short has criticised the "political and commercial considerations" brought to aid policy by her Conservative predecessors. Her aides have reassured MPs and pressure groups that Labour policy will be different. But concern focuses on what is seen as a contradiction in Labour's mission statement on foreign policy announced by Mr Cook a fortnight after Labour's election victory.

Mr Cook then said: "Our foreign policy must have an ethical dimension and must support the demands of other peoples for the democratic rights on which we insist for ourselves ... The national interest cannot be defined only by narrow realpolitik ... political values [cannot] be left behind when we check in our passports to travel on diplomatic business".

But Mr Cook has also said he intends to use British embassies to expand trade and export promotion. "I once asked Robin Cook, 'Does that mean more arms sales?'" one Labour MP said yesterday. "There is that suspicion, and how all this talk is going to be translated into action we don't know. My feeling is we should give them a breathing space to sort out what they're going to do, but if the policy's not right, we're going to give them hell."

Any significant reduction in aid or explicit statements about human rights would certainly offend the touchy Indonesian government and jeopardise lucrative contracts. In Jakarta yesterday protesters mounted the fourth in a series of demonstrations denouncing Mr Kennedy's aid-cutting proposals.

The ODA provided projects worth £37.7m in Indonesia last year with another £2m being channelled through other departments. About a third was in the form of Aid and Trade Provision, a form of tied aid under which contracts in recipient projects must be awarded to British firms.

In the past, Britain has supported training programmes for the Indonesian police, who have frequently been accused of human rights violations, including torture and killings.

ODA support also went to a land resource inventory designed to assist Indonesia's controversial transmigration programme. Millions of poor Indonesians from the crowded islands of Java, Madura and Bali have been transplanted to outer areas of the archipelago, provoking land disputes, racial tensions and rioting with native people. In February, as many as 4,000 settlers on the island of Borneo were beheaded and cannibalised by Dayak tribesmen after long running disputes connected with the transmigration programme.

Both of these projects have finished, but Britain continues to provide soft loans to the Samarinda Power Station in Borneo, a £46m contract involving Rolls Royce. This has been criticised as uneconomic and unlikely to have any effect on poverty.

Mystery figure: Children eye a model of an 'alien' at the International UFO Museum in Roswell Photographs: AP

Dummies help US air force close its Roswell X-file

Mary Dejevsky
Washington

Almost 50 years after the celebrated "Roswell incident", the US air force has published what it says is a final report, trying to solve once and for all one of the most resilient mysteries of 20th-century America: the supposed crashlanding of a flying saucer, complete with aliens, in a farmer's field in New Mexico, and a government conspiracy to cover it up.

The air force report, kept confidential until its release yesterday, addresses for the first time claims by "eyewitnesses" that aliens were found in the wreckage and secretly removed by the authorities. The number of aliens said to have been sighted has varied from three to five or more. But the description – that they were like people, but smaller, squatter and with round heads – has never altered, and has provided the template for all "aliens" since.

The conjunction of the Roswell incident with America's national holiday is the coincidence from which the recent classic of American cinematic science fiction, *Independence Day*, derived. The television series the *X-Files* built its appeal on the same popular suspicion of government and weakness for science fiction.

Eyewitness: Frank Kaufmann says he saw a spaceship at Roswell army base

The air force explanation yesterday was that the "aliens" were dummies used in experiments in the Fifties to test the effect of high-parachute drops on human bodies. The report speculates that people confused dummies they saw fallen to earth then, with the "flying saucer" incident of the previous decade.

This explanation was rejected by several UFO researchers. Karl Pflock said although he did not believe the Roswell incident entailed a flying saucer or dead aliens, the "eyewitnesses" had been categorical they were talking about the year 1947, and would not have confused different incidents years apart.

Earlier official explanations – the first dating from only a few days after the Roswell incident, on 3-4 July 1947, have said the extra-terrestrial wreckage supposedly seen the day after the crash was a weather balloon. Yesterday's finding is consistent with that.

It still does not explain why, in July 1947, the authorities mounted such a massive operation to recover the "balloon" and secure the site; why top-level officials were flown in secret to Roswell; why so little was divulged in the decade that followed the incident; and why no parachute dummy from that era was produced before.

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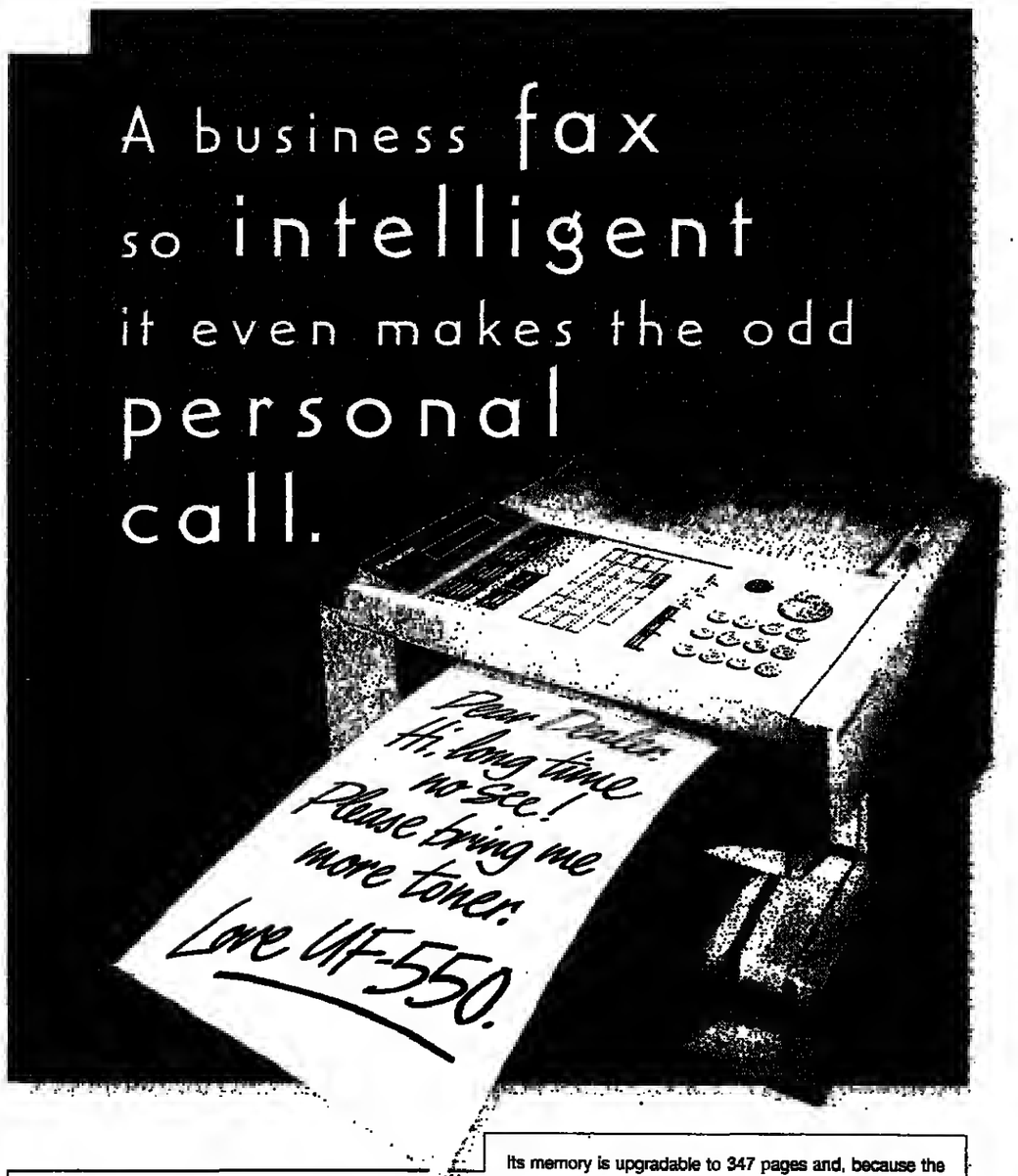

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Bavaria's curb on abortions struck down

Imre Karacs
Bonn

Bavaria's Draconian new law designed to curb abortions was torpedoed yesterday by Germany's highest court, opening a rift between the conservative *Land* and the rest of the country.

The decision, described by Social Democrats in Munich as a "slap in the face" for the regional government, restores the right of doctors to terminate pregnancies without hindrance. Under the new law, due to come into effect next Tuesday, only gynaecologists licensed to carry out abortions would have been allowed to perform the operation.

In its ruling yesterday, the Federal Constitutional Court declared that these measures would have created "abortion tourism", driving pregnant women to more liberal parts of Germany. Since the "Expanded Pregnancy Assistance Law" was passed by the Munich assembly a year ago, only 14 doctors working in six hospitals have been able to obtain the permit in the whole of Bavaria.

The new rules, sponsored by the ruling Christian Socialist Union, were strongly opposed at the time by civil rights groups and even conservative politicians elsewhere in Germany. They stipulate that women seeking an abortion must provide a reason. This part of the measure remains in force, pending a futher ruling later this year by the Constitutional Court.

But the rules banning doctors from earning more than a quarter of their income from abortions are now suspended. Under the law, state officials would have had the power to order random searches of the homes and practices of doctors known to terminate pregnancies.

The legal challenge was mounted by two Bavarian doctors who derived all their income from abortions, and would therefore have had to close down their practice next Tuesday. They had argued that without a network of specialist clinics, Bavarian women would have been forced to travel great distances, which would have endangered their health. The two doctors performed nearly two-thirds of all Bavarian abortions last year.

Despite the verdict, the Munich government insisted yesterday that, while it would observe the temporary injunction, it had no plans to water down its measures. But opposition Social Democrats announced that they would be launching a petition on Saturday calling for a referendum on the right of Bavarian women for abortion on demand.

The predominantly Catholic *Land*, governed by Germany's most right-wing party, had introduced the bill as a reaction to a 1995 federal law on abortion, enacted partly in response to more liberal practices in the former East Germany. Bavaria has the hardest line in Germany on immigration, Scientologists and a host of other issues which tap the passions of the "hang'em and flog'em" brigade.

The regional government in Munich remains in conflict with the rest of the country over its insistence on hanging a crucifix in every classroom, a practice non-Catholics complain is *discriminatory*. A verdict by the Constitutional Court two years ago calling on the *Land* to remove the crucifix where it causes offence has been completely ignored.

Poll position: An Albanian at a Socialist Party election rally near Tirana yesterday. Albanians vote later this week in the wake of the collapsed pyramid scheme earlier this year that brought the country to the brink of anarchy Photograph: Reuters

significant shorts

Bonn finds cash for Eurofighter take-off

Germany's Finance Minister indicated for the first time yesterday that his government had found the money to join Britain, Spain and Italy in the project to build Eurofighter, the new generation of multi-purpose combat aircraft. The plane will be built, Theo Waigel said, after meeting the head of Dasa, the company responsible for the German share of the project..

At least 14,000 jobs directly depend on Eurofighter in Britain, with a further 12,000 in Germany and thousands more in the other two partner countries. But the German government, grappling with a severe budget crisis, has been reluctant to give the go-ahead, which all participants need to issue the first orders. Germany is expected to make its formal decision on 11 July. The opposition Social Democrats renewed their call yesterday for scrapping the project. **Imre Karacs – Bonn**

US delays loan for Croatia

The US is delaying consideration of a $30m (£18m) World Bank loan to Croatia to signal displeasure with its tardiness in fulfilling the Dayton peace accords, as the trial opened in The Hague of a Bosnian Croat general accused of war crimes.

US officials said they want Croatia to allow the return of Serbian refugees and hand over more indicted war criminals. State Department officials said approval for the loan was being postponed because President Franjo Tudjman "has not followed through on some of his commitments, including not taking the necessary steps on war criminals". The move coincided with the start of the trial of Tihomir Blaskic, accused of directing an "ethnic cleansing" campaign in the Lasva valley of central Bosnia from 1992 to 1994. **Mary Dejevsky – Washington**

Austria attacked over Nazi gold

A Jewish human-rights group demanded a full accounting of why the Allies returned tonnes of gold to Austria after the Second World War, even though more than 1 million Austrians fought for Hitler. Opening a conference on restitution of Jewish property looted by the Nazis, Marvin Hier, of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, sought to broaden the spotlight on the wartime era to lands other than just Switzerland.

He singled out Austria for special criticism. "This decision was outrageous, because that gold belonged entirely to the victims of the Holocaust," Mr Hier told the opening session of the conference. **Reuters – Geneva**

Cambodia sets poll date

Cambodia's First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, said he and co-premier Hun Sen had agreed on a date for general elections – May next year. He said holding the elections was more important than the capture of Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, which has made headlines around the world: **Reuters – Phnom Penh**

Bond's spy car stolen

Thieves have stolen James Bond's 1963 Aston Martin from a Florida hangar and may hope to sell it to a collector. The car (above), with machine-guns, bullet-proof windows and ejection seat, would be easily spotted, police said. The DB5, used by 007 in early Bond films such as *Goldfinger*, was taken from a hangar at an airfield early last week by thieves who cut the alarm and a padlock and eluded security officers in the middle of the night. **Reuters – Boca Raton, Florida**

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US spy planes reveal Israel's secrets

Mid-East ally is subject to secret surveillance, reports **Robert Fisk** in Washington

Listening brief: An American Awacs spy plane, of the type used by the US military to eavesdrop on its closest ally in the Middle East

A United States Awacs electronic intelligence gathering aircraft flies up the Israeli-border with Jordan every day, "hoovering-up" the radio traffic of its closest Middle East ally. Washington says nothing about the flights – nor their purpose: to spy on the Israeli army and air force, to find out if their public statements on violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and their bombing raids on Lebanon accord with the Israeli military communications swept by the US air crews flying out of Saudi Arabia.

Hebrew-speaking crewmen even record the radio traffic of Israeli army units inside the occupied West Bank, noting the exact words of Israeli commanders when they report on confrontations with Palestinian stone-throwers – as well as air-to-air communication by Israeli pilots flying bombing or reconnaissance flights over Lebanon. Full reports of the Israeli radio traffic are routinely forwarded to Washington.

The existence of the Airborne Warning and Control System (Awacs) flights is known to Israel, although US officials have hitherto suggested that their mission is to monitor Iraqi and Jordanian military communications rather than Israeli forces. Israeli intelligence operatives, however, have long been aware that the United States military-trained Hebrew speakers at its language school at Fort Meade, Maryland.

So nervous were the Americans that Israel might object to its spy-flights – a sure sign of the fear of the powerful Israel lobby – that Hebrew courses at Fort Meade were originally referred to as "Special Arabic."

Hebrew is now taught openly to Awacs crews at the Defense Languages Institute at Monterey, California, which also employs around 100 Arab scholars from Lebanon, Syria and the Gulf, as well as Iraq.

The Awacs missions have been in operation along the Israeli border for at least 12 years; former crewmen say that Israel's military communications have been monitored ever since Israeli aircraft attacked the USS *Liberty*, an intelligence-gathering vessel that was bombed on 8 June 1967, as it listened to Israeli radio traffic off the Egyptian coast at the height of the Six Day War. The Israelis killed 34 American sailors and wounded another 171 in the attack.

The Israeli assault – described by their then military commander Yitzhak Rabin as a "mistake" – left the US navy deeply suspicious of Israel's motives and intentions in the Middle East. The *Liberty*, according to intelligence officials in Washington, was listening in to Israel's strategic weapons site in the Negev desert in an attempt to predict whether it would launch nuclear strikes against Egypt.

But Israel probably does not need to worry too much about America's eavesdropping. "The USS *Liberty* incident was never far from our minds," a former Awacs linguist – who flew out of the US-built airbase at Dhahran – told *The Independent*. "We listened to everything that came out of Israel, just hoovered them up. We would listen to their radio messages from individual Israeli units on the streets of Nablus or Gaza. And we'd hear them say that they'd killed a Palestinian during a riot – even though the Israelis would say officially that they didn't kill anyone. We reported all this back to Washington. Then, after a while, we found that Washington didn't want this information. We realised we were wasting our time. The information wasn't used."

According to the same source, US Awacs monitors taped all Israeli radio traffic during the 1986 Palestinian intifada. "Our linguists had a bonanza," he said. "The Israelis would say they hadn't killed anyone but we would have heard them say 'three dead'. They were lying publicly. We'd turn round Gaza and then go north up the Jordanian border and then turn back south-east again. We were even listening to the Israeli navy."

The Awacs missions have not always been welcomed by the Saudis. Even before the 1991 Gulf War, the Saudis would refuse permission – without reason – for the Awacs to take off. US monitors flew on super-secret RC-135 reconnaissance missions during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, and some quickly learned that their government had long-term ambitions to base intelligence-gathering operations in Saudi Arabia. A US Air Force colonel told one Awacs monitor in October of 1990 that "we've been trying for years to establish a base here, and now that we're here we're not leaving until they physically throw us out."

Last year, a bomb attack on a US base in Dhahran left 19 American servicemen dead and another 500 wounded. The Saudis themselves bought an RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, sending its crew for training at Greenville, Texas.

> 'We'd hear them say they'd killed a Palestinian, even though they'd officially deny it'

"Because most of the airplane was filled with Arabic linguists, and we had the capability to intercept communications from quite a distance, it was almost hopeless trying to convince them [the Saudis] that we would not be listening to 'host country' communications," the former Awacs crew member said. The Saudi government did in fact let us fly a few missions over their country during the Iran-Iraq war, but each one involved an incredible amount of diplomatic wrangling, and we never knew until the day of the mission whether or not we were going to be able to take off."

Sharon set to join Israeli inner cabinet

Patrick Cockburn
Jerusalem

Ariel Sharon is poised to return to the top leadership of Israel, 15 years after an Israeli government commission held him partly responsible for the massacre of some 800 Palestinians at Sabra and Chatila refugee camps in Beirut during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which he masterminded in 1982.

Mr Sharon, 69, is expected to be chosen as the next Finance Minister as part of a government reshuffle by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

He is demanding that he be included in the small inner cabinet, which makes strategic decisions on negotiations with the Palestinians. Mr Sharon told Israel radio: "I stated [to Mr Netanyahu] in a very clear fashion that I have to be on this team."

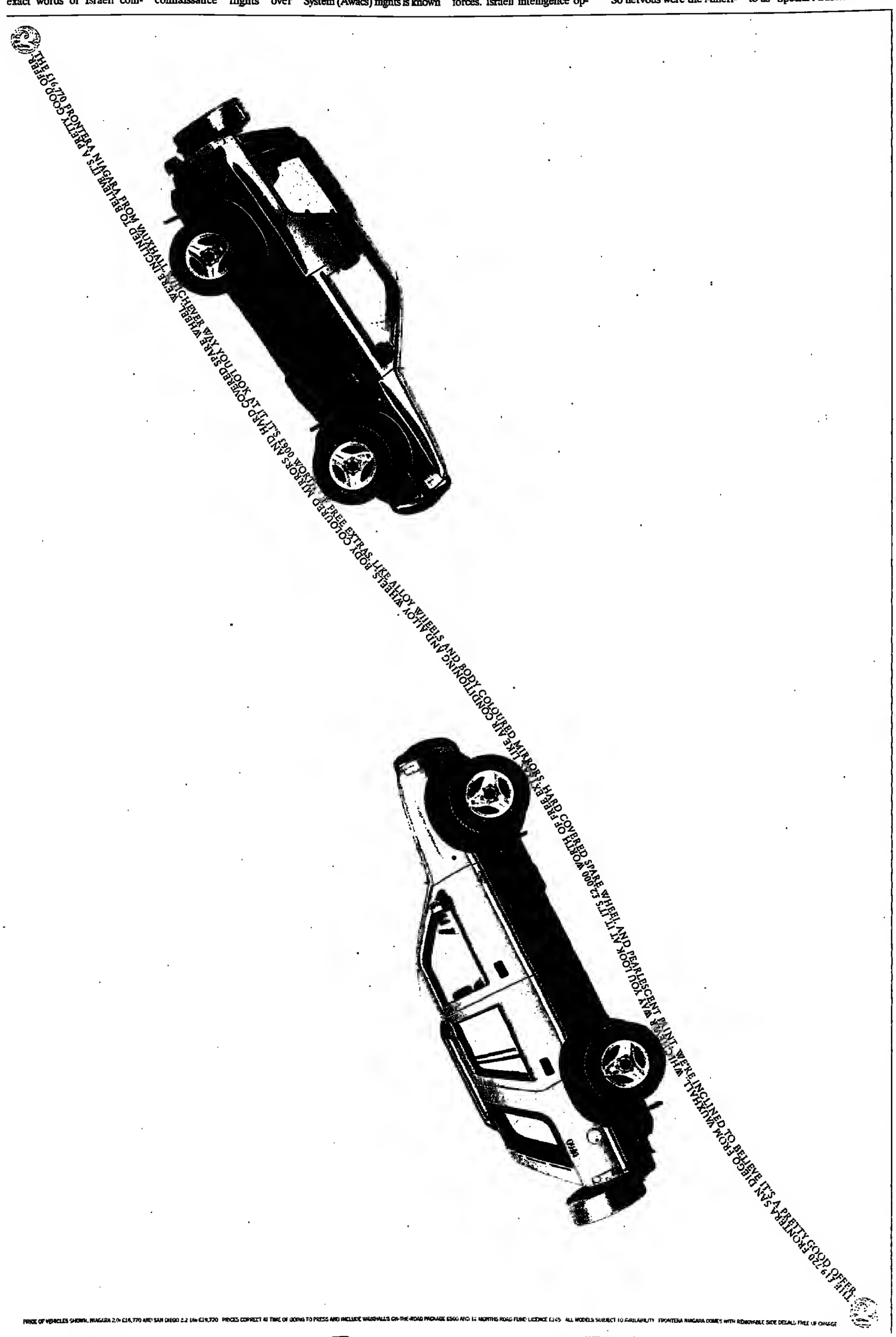
The promotion of Mr Sharon, who has been serving as Infrastructure Minister, would move the Israeli cabinet even further to the right and is worrying both the Palestinian leadership and the US. As Finance Minister he will be well positioned to channel money to Jewish settlers in the occupied territories to enable them to expand their settlements.

Another senior member of government condemned for the Sabra and Chatila massacre is Rafael Eitan, the chief of staff during the invasion of Lebanon, who once described the Palestinians as "cockroaches in a bottle," is Agriculture Minister.

The cabinet reshuffle was scheduled to take place after a vote of confidence in the Knesset yesterday which Mr Netanyahu is expected to win after a deal with the Russian immigrant party, Yisrael ba-Aliya.

Ariel Sharon: Well positioned to channel money to settlers

The debate was conducted with peculiar venom. In his speech Tzahi Hanegbi, the Justice Minister, deliberately mispronounced the name of Ehud Barak, the newly-elected Labour leader, so that it sounded like the Hebrew word for "ran away". This is part of an attempt by the government to discredit Mr Barak, a former chief of staff, who has been accused of leaving the scene of a training accident before all the injured had received medical attention. Mr Netanyahu's coalition appeared safe last night after Yisrael ba-Aliya signed a pact with the government to increase the funds allocated to the immigrants and give it a voice in senior appointments.



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Free museums display Britain at its best

The true case for abandoning admissions charges for the national museums is not socialist, it is patriotic. Let Mark Fisher, Labour's junior National Heritage Minister, carry out his review. But when he decides, as he must, that entry to the Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert should be free, let's not hear too much about doing it for the sake of people on low incomes. That is a consideration, but a small one. The case for open admission rests on a Victorian value Lady Thatcher and the Tories never had much time for: institutions created in the public interest and for the celebration of public culture must be open and inclusive.

There is a distinction, subtle but vital, to be made between nationalism and patriotism. One is atavistic, inward-looking, foreigner-hating; the other is relaxed, open to the world, keen to share what is best in a country. A British patriot can, for example, be the most enthusiastic advocate of membership of the European Union. Someone genuinely fond of this country might take pride in that great institution in Bloomsbury, the British Museum, because it is open to all in principle and in practice. To all those concerned about the provenance of its sculptures and artefacts, the reply is: the past is past and you, whether Greek or Roman, come here and browse, free, gratis and for nothing.

That visitors have to pay to enter the Louvre or the Kunsthistorische Museum or Trajan's Market or the Acropolis is utterly irrelevant – as is the fact that most of the Smithsonian Institution is free. The argument against charging simply says: in Britain we are proud of that great collector's and conservator's instinct which brought together these great collections and even prouder of the fact they are free.

Except some of them are not. The National Gallery and the Tate hold out, but at the National Galleries and Museums on Merseyside there is a muttering. Even the trustees of the British Museum are once again wondering about charging visitors. Our national museums dedicated to fine arts, the Navy, war, natural history and science all charge. For all their imagination in family ticketing and provision (for example at the Victoria and Albert), at certain times sampling the national collections can be a costly business. There is an argument that says financial stringency has improved the management of all the national collections; indeed, that it has pushed curators into imaginative collaborations with the private sector. There is nothing wrong with hiring out the dinosaurs as a party backdrop – provided vital curatorial and educational functions are not downgraded by a dash for cash. Trustees should not suddenly stop seeking outside funds. But charging is not a necessary condition for any of these managerial benefits. Besides, the argument of principle against charging is compelling.

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Mark Fisher needs to spend little time on that. His question is how, in these Brownist financial circumstances, he can find the money to allow trustees to tear up their tariffs.

The National Lottery has made that question far less difficult. No, the funds available from the nation's gambling are finite and yes, the Labour government has already made free with them, rhetorically speaking. Proceeds from the same bet cannot simultaneously buy chalk and medicine, and then pay for overtime for the guards at the Imperial War Museum. But the National Lottery already contributes considerable sums to the national collections, in the form of capital grants. Even though, in some cases, these grants are matched by private sector money, there is room in the financing formula for substituting revenue grants (which would allow the abandonment of entrance charges) for capital awards. The museums' grants in aid from the Department of National Heritage are being squeezed in the Tory spending plans inherited and endorsed by Gordon Brown. But is the Department's aggregate budget so slim that the Government has no room for manoeuvre?

More difficult than money is the question of whether support for the national collections would put additional pressure on other museums – such as those rewarded yesterday by Chris Smith with the accolade "pre-eminent", including the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu or the Rural History Centre at Reading. Of course the national collections are not all in London. The Science Museum group includes the National Railway Museum in York and the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford. The official list of national collections includes the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool. Any comprehensive list of (British) national collections would need to include the National Gallery of Scotland. Britain's museum culture is blooming and booming. New installations open all the time. Not all are successful – the Royal Armouries, a national collection now based in Leeds, has been struggling. But to try to paint all museums as cash-strapped and desperate is completely false – look at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge (which does not charge), fighting against its dotnish neighbours over its modest and tasteful expansion plans.

Giving extra support to the national collections in order to allow them to head off a decision to impose charges will be construed by some as élitist. It is nothing of the kind. Just as there is a hierarchy of universities based on the quality of their research which necessitates different levels of support, so the national collections have to be recognised as that – national institutions that command our loyalty and appreciation and, belonging to us all, have no place for turnstiles and ticket machines in their entrance halls.

A few germs for company

The idea that people who live alone are more prone to catching cold seems a little surprising at first. As anyone with children knows, the moment your offspring start returning from nursery school you find your whole household succumbing to every passing ailment the neighbourhood has to offer. Longer reflection provides one possible explanation: single people have no one to accuse them of hypochondriac weediness, no one who forces them out of bed and back into business. But sadly the more probable reason is that loners are – well, lonely. And that's a better reason for feeling ill than most.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Green future will enrich our lives

Sir: Your editorial ("The green odyssey will not always be applauded", 24 June) repeats a misconception which bedevils the green debate that "if Labour wants to accomplish half of what it promises, it is going to have to start telling the public some unpleasant things – like stop driving, pay more, consume less".

Policies which improve the environment do not need to incur cost and sacrifice. On the contrary they are a massive opportunity to improve both quality of life and economic wellbeing.

Many green policies can be paid for by switching tax and government expenditure around; they do not necessarily require overall increases in personal taxation. More than that, modern transport policies which reduce car use will enrich all our lives not just those of the currently disadvantaged like children, the disabled and the elderly. But they are essential for future prosperity. London and many other cities could unlock their value and transform their economic prospects by becoming paragons of sensible transport provision and offering an attractive location for the mobile economic activities which will increasingly be the basis of future success.

If the Government does implement a green transport policy what will strike us in years to come is not the cost and the sacrifice but the fact that we put up with present unsatisfactory transport conditions for so long.

RICHARD BOURN
Campaigns Officer
Council for the Protection of Rural England
London EC1

Sir: The Prime Minister's speech to the UN Environment Summit in New York on the need for urgent action to protect the environment and, in particular, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, is an encouraging sign of the UK's willingness to take a lead.

There is a further powerful economic consideration which does not seem to have figured in recent discussions. As well as the environmental constraints on excessive fossil fuel use, there are resource limits. These apply particularly to oil, which is the main energy source for transport, the most rapidly growing sector of energy demand.

On current trends, readily exploitable reserves of oil will be severely depleted in a few decades. While there may be some new discoveries and new means of extraction, these are likely to be more than offset by increasing demand from rapidly developing countries with large populations like China. The likely outcome will be a huge rise in oil prices which will affect the US as a large net oil importer, as well as having disastrous consequences for many poorer countries.

We must rapidly curb our consumption of fossil fuels. We can choose to do this in a controlled way, or have unpleasant consequences forced upon us.

MARTIN QUICK
Chairman, Architects and Engineers for Social Responsibility
Stroud, Gloucestershire

Sir: We are a group of farmers from in and around Tony Blair's own Sedgfield constituency, who can help him achieve the 20 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions he has called for.

We can provide biodiesel, without new environmental taxes, without new taxes on transport fuels. We can grow the oil-producing rape plant. We can sell it for conversion to biodiesel at local processing factories. End-users could buy it at less than the price of polluting fossil-diesel.

The process is carbon-dioxide neutral, which means that the same amount of gas given off by vehicles is taken up by new growing plants. Growing the crop provides an unsubsidised income for farmers, creating job stability in the countryside. Particulate emissions are the same as for fossil-diesel, and can be reduced by 40 per cent with catalytic converters. Vehicles with diesel engines can fill up with either fuel.

Biodiesel can be produced for 50p per litre. Fossil diesel costs 60p at the service station. In 1995 the previous government insisted on putting 34 pence tax on top of this clean, environmental product, so that it can't be produced and sold for under 84 pence per litre.

It's not too late for Gordon Brown to do what Germany does, and have no tax at all on pure biodiesel, in next week's green Budget.

JOHN SEYMOUR
Chairman, East Durham Biodiesel Working Group
Hawthorn, County Durham

Sir: Reports that the Labour Government is to introduce a "green" Budget and that Tony Blair is urging individuals and institutions to change their lifestyles, five years after Rio, are welcome ("Blair gets serious on climate summit", 24 June). But the Government must put its own house in order.

Members of Parliament have for years been encouraged by the excessively generous mileage allowances and the anti-social hours of parliament business to take their cars into the Palace of Westminster. Spouses (and perhaps now partners) also have parking facilities there. In addition how many short journeys are made by government cars from departments dotted around London and indeed by journalists with privileged access to the House?

The Government could begin by restricting Labour Members' parking facilities, reviewing the mileage allowance between MPs' homes and London, and changing the parliamentary timetable, or failing that, laying on a "House" bus or taxi service late at night. MPs have got used to the idea that they are special cases; the Government should now set an example.

RUTH WINSTONE
Director
Centre for the Study of Society and Politics
Kingston University
Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey

Sir: Imagine the Greenwich Dome with an outer covering of photovoltaic cells. What an excellent way of demonstrating Britain's commitment to conservation of natural resources into the next millennium.

MOLLIE PULLAN
York

Benefits of a minimum wage

Sir: The Institute of Economic Affairs' articles on the national minimum wage are very wide of the mark of industry's views on the subject ("Warning on minimum wage", 23 June).

Businesses in every sector support the principle of a national minimum wage. This has been confirmed in recent surveys by Reed International and the British Services Association. Employers recognise the many positive benefits that a national minimum wage will bring. A minimum wage encourages firms to train and enhance the skills of their workforce, in order to compete in terms of quality and not simply on cost.

Increasing output, motivating staff and boosting local economies are other reasons why this Government is committed to introducing a minimum wage, and why it has received widespread support. Of course the training that young people receive in new jobs will need to be borne in mind and the Labour Party's pledge to business promises to take account of this and not to penalise occupational training.

We have also made it clear that the national minimum wage will be introduced at a sensible level, taking into account the economic conditions at the time.

The Government has appointed Professor George Bain, a distinguished and proven negotiator in industry, as chairman of the Low Pay Commission. He will take on board the views from all sectors of business on the level and implementation of the minimum wage before making his recommendations to us.

The fact that his appointment was warmly welcomed by employers and employees alike demonstrates that this process has got off to an excellent start.

IAN McCARTNEY MP
Minister of State
Department of Trade and Industry
London SW1

France stifled by bureaucracy

Sir: Robert Winder misses the point about the French by confusing culture with overweight bureaucracy as if they were the same thing ("The French could turn out to be heroes", 24 June).

I have travelled to France every year for about 20 years and the ordinary small businessman, restaurateur, wine grower is now at the end of his tether about the number of functionaries in safe jobs that have to be paid for out of taxation. A friend of mine who owns a small logis (a restaurant with 11 bedrooms) in Burgundy was visited this year by no fewer than seven petty bureaucrats to examine his fire precautions. Meanwhile he dare not employ another person because of the up-front costs followed by employment costs imposed by other functionaries in safe jobs. I heard the same story everywhere.

Yes, the French believe that life should be comfortable and fun, but the cost of this overweight and inflexible burden is nothing to do with fun or the culture of food, literature, music, etc. Neither do most people believe it makes cultural sense that taxes should pay for subsidising an uncompetitive Air France and France Telecom. Mario Vargas Llosa ("The disaster striking France", 20 June) is right; the French people are suffering because their politicians do not have the courage to root out protectionism in the state sector and develop policies that promote real jobs.

DAVID READ
London NW11

Argentina's rights

Sir: I refer to Phil Davison's article "Argentina backs off Falklands claim" (6 June).

The title chosen for the article and certain insinuations made by *The Independent*'s Latin American correspondent about statements by the Argentine Foreign Minister, Guido Di Tella, are misleading.

Indeed, Argentina has not dropped and does not intend to drop her claim to the Malvinas Islands. Since 1994 a specific provision in the Constitution clearly refers to this issue. The same clause also establishes that Argentina's rights to the islands will be pursued exclusively in accordance with international law. My country is therefore constitutionally committed to finding a mutually satisfactory settlement for the sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom.

ROGELIO PFIRTER
Ambassador, Argentine Republic
London SW1

Sniffing peril of self-cool cans

Sir: You report (19 June) that the world's drinks industry is contemplating marketing its products in a self-cooling can. As cooling takes place, the can releases the hydrofluorocarbon HFC 134a into the atmosphere. Objections have been raised because HFC 134a is a "greenhouse gas". We have another important warning.

HFC 134a has potential for deliberate misuse as a drug. Volatile substance abuse (VSA) remains a serious problem. We have data on over 250 deaths in the UK caused by the misuse of substances similar to HFC 134a when used as aerosol propellants or in fire extinguishers. The commonest age at death was 15 years.

Deaths from VSA continue despite considerable efforts on the part of retailers, manufacturers and trade associations to make products containing volatile substances, such as contact adhesives, cigarette lighter refills and aerosols, less accessible to youngsters.

If self-cooling cans were to be marketed for soft drinks they would be readily available to children and adolescents. They would contain a readily abusable substance, probably in an accessible form uncontaminated with non-respirable substances, all factors which increase the likelihood that a product will be abused.

JOHN RAMSEY
Toxicologist
St George's Hospital Medical School, VSA mortality monitoring group
ROSS ANDERSON
Epidemiologist
St George's Hospital Medical School, VSA mortality monitoring group
JENNIFER TAYLOR
Researcher
St George's Hospital Medical School, VSA mortality monitoring group
RICHARD IVES
Consultant to Solvent Misuse Project
National Children's Bureau
ROBERT FLANAGAN
Toxicologist
Medical Toxicology Unit
Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Trust
London, SW17

Old insult

Sir: With reference to Eric Partridge having the final word on "toe-rag" (Letters, 21 June), I suggest that the first word should go to Sir John Aubrey. In his *Brief Life of Ralph Kettell* (late seventeenth century) he records some words of that scholar and divine:

"Dr Kettell, when he scolded at the idle young hoies of the colledge, he used these names, viz. Turds, *Turrarags* (these were the worst sort, rude Rakills) Rascal-Jacks, Blindcinques, Scobberlotchers ..." (The italics are mine).

G T EDDY
Stalbridge
Dorset

Unbearable

Sir: Thomas Macaulay analysed the hunting issue long ago (Letters, 17 and 18 June): "The Puritan hated bear-baiting, not because it gave pain to the bear, but because it gave pleasure to the spectators."

ELEANOR PHIPPS
London N5

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Betty Shabazz

There are people – outstanding people – doomed to be remembered less for themselves than their entanglement in history made by others. Betty Shabazz was one of these, a devoted wife and exemplary mother, an assiduous and effective campaigner for civil rights. First, last and always however, through a life overshadowed and torn asunder by the feuds of radical black America, she was the wife of Malcolm X.

Little is known of her early life, except that she was born in Detroit in 1934 and brought up by foster parents in the New York area. But in 1956 she enrolled in the Nation of Islam, the proud and puritanical black Muslim sect led by Elijah Mohammed, and soon came across the minister born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, who now called himself Malcolm X.

In those days Betty Shabazz, who had studied at Tuskegee Institute, Brooklyn State Hospital School of Nursing and Jersey State College, was one of the few college graduates who converted to the Nation. I was "halfway impressed by her intelligence", Malcolm would later write – more than a mite condescendingly – of his future wife. More important, "Sister Betty" was "a good Muslim woman", devoted and self-effacing, tolerant of his long absences and constant 18-hour work days. Their courtship was austere: no conversation was personal, no date without a chaperone. Even Malcolm's proposal was long-distance, a call to New York from a payphone at a Detroit petrol station.

They married in 1958, and she would bear him six children, the last two still unborn when she went to the Audubon Theatre in Harlem on Sunday 21 February 1965 to attend a speech by her husband. By then Malcolm X had become the most controversial symbol of black America, feared and loathed by whites for his firebrand oratory, yet actually estranged from Elijah Mohammed after urging less confrontational and isolationist policies for the Nation. Hardly had Malcolm X begun to speak than shots rang out. As Betty screamed in horror, 16 bullets tore into his body. He died instantly.

For decades afterwards she would try to shield her children from the horror of that day, moving the family from the city to the supposed safety of the suburbs, sending them to the best possible schools, and hiding from them every book or photo which showed how their father met his end. She herself tried to rebuild a normal life, earning a doctorate degree in education and becoming an administrator at Medgar Evers college, in charge of civil rights programmes, tirelessly urging non-violence.

But the past would not release her, nor did she wish it to. "My children think my persona is me," she would say. "But actually it is their father's." And with him, the old schisms lived on. When the split came with Elijah Mohammed, Malcolm was succeeded as the Nation's spokesman by Louis Farrakhan, who denounced him as "a dog" who was "marked for death" by his disloyalty to the leader.

Unsurprisingly, although three men were convicted of Malcolm's murder, the Shabazz family (and many others) were convinced Farrakhan had a hand in the deed.

And thus the second tragedy of Betty Shabazz's life – the bombshell news in 1995 that her daughter Qubilah had been indicted of plotting to kill Farrakhan, by now himself the Nation's leader and, like Malcolm before him, the most demonised black leader in America. There were other strange parallels too, notably allegations that the FBI had been behind Qubilah's conspiracy – just as in 1965 J. Edgar Hoover was suspected of helping engineer the assassination of the man then regarded as the prime threat to racial harmony in America.

Ultimately, the indictment was dropped, in return for Qubilah being placed on probation to undergo psychiatric and and alcoholism treatment. Meanwhile Betty Shabazz and Farrakhan were publicly reconciled at a remarkable public ceremony at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, and in October 1995 she took part in Farrakhan's "Million Man March" in Washington. But the third and final family tragedy was still to come.

In mid-1997 Qubilah's son Malcolm, named after the grandfather he never knew, was sent to live with his grandmother. To his new neighbours he seemed a normal if somewhat subdued 12-year-old, "a quiet kind of kid". In truth though, he was a tormented child, sent to New York by his mother to get him away from a violent gang of friends where they were living in Texas. The boy apparently hated living in New York, and bitterly resented his grandmother. So, if police are to be believed, he set the fire which would kill her. Thus a wretched wheel came full circle. A "black princess and mother" of the modern civil rights movement had devoted her life to one man named Malcolm.

It would be ended by their grandson, also called Malcolm, in an arson attack as lethal as it was pointless.

Rupert Cornwell

Betty Shabazz, civil rights activist and college administrator: born Detroit 1934; married 1958 Malcolm X (died 1965; six daughters); died New York 23 June 1997.

Shabazz: married for seven years to the most controversial symbol of black America – Malcolm X

Colette Magny

The formidable singer Colette Magny was one of the most remarkable artists to emerge from France in the Sixties. Her commitment to political causes followed the ups and downs of that turbulent decade while her militancy and dedication gave its full meaning to the expression *chanteuse engagée*.

Born in Paris in 1926, Magny was the daughter of a grocery salesman and a mother who eventually took up acting at the age of 57. Magny herself was a late developer as an artist and worked as a bilingual secretary and translator at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) from 1948 to 1962. Her knowledge of English gave her valuable insight into the music of blues performers like Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey and Ella Fitzgerald. She started to perform blues standards and her own compositions around Paris, having been taught to play banjo and guitar by the French jazzman Claude Luter.

In 1962, following a stint at the Contrescarpe cabaret (where Graeme Allwright was also discovered), Magny came

Magny: visceral performances

to the attention of Mireille, the composer and perennial promoter of new talent (who died at the end of last year), who promptly booked the singer on her television show *Le Petit Conservatoire de la Chanson*. The day after Magny's first appearance, the *Paris-Presse* newspaper raved about her version of "Saint James Infirmary" and ran the headline: "France has found her own Ella Fitzgerald".

Indeed, the French singer had not only a physique but also a voice similar to that of the jazz legend. She could swoop, scream, quaver and really move the audience. In 1963, when appearing at the Olympia Theatre in Paris on the same bill as the teen sensations Claude François and Sylvie Vartan, Magny even silenced and impressed the crowds of screaming fans.

Having given up her civil service job, she signed to the French arm of CBS records and released the single "Melocoton" which made it into the hit parade. Magny then quickly moved away from the mainstream. She set French poems (for instance "Tuileries" by Victor Hugo and works by Aragon and Rimbaud) and translations of foreign writers (Lewis Carroll, Pablo Neruda) to music, she built songs around famous quotations (from the Bible, Chekhov, Dostoevsky, Lenin, Einstein) and wrote lyrics inspired by paintings, while still covering blues standards and singing her own material.

Her political conscience had been awakened by the last rumblings of the Algerian war at the end of the Fifties and she now became France's first bona fide protest singer with "*Le Mal de Vivre*", which was instantly banned by the state-controlled broadcasters ORTF. Censorship would be a permanent thorn in her side (and later inspired her album *Répression*).

From 1964, Magny's records were released on Le Chant du Monde, a record label backed by the French Communist Party. With titles like *Frappe Ton Cocur* ("Strike Your Own Heart") and *Vietnam 67*, her albums proved to be harbingers of *les événements*, May 1968 came and Magny was in her element, supporting the students and the workers, taking part in meetings, sit-ins, benefit concerts. She was pro-Cuba, pro-Black Panthers, pro-women's lib, against war in Vietnam, and cared about immigrant workers. She wrote "*Les Militants*" for the protesters.

Magny's muse was as diverse as her political conviction was intense. She dabbled in free jazz, progressive rock, contemporary music and, in 1973, with *Feu et Rythme*, she won the Grand Prix du Disque from the Académie Charles Cros (the French equivalent and forerunner of the Mercury Music Prize). Along with Léo Ferré, she broke the mould of the traditional French chanson and forged her own direction.

In the late Seventies, Magny's left-wing beliefs began to seem redundant and, following François Mitterrand's election in 1981, her work became less dogmatic. She moved to the Aveyron area, in the south-west of France. She was still a charismatic, primal, visceral performer but seemed happier, perhaps because she had come to terms with her own sexuality. She even mellowed sufficiently to sing "My Heart Belongs To Daddy" and later recorded *Kevork*, a curious album in which she sung the praises of the turkey (on the grounds that a turkey, once domesticated, if released, can revert to its wild condition).

Over the last few years, she suffered from a chronic spinal disease and was often confined to her bed or a wheelchair. Still she railed against "the bastards who pretend I'm already dead. I want to prove to them that I'm still alive, still creating."

Colette Magny's was a unique voice in France and never made any compromises. Yet, in the dozen albums she recorded, she also brought her own brand of blues, poetry and politics to a wider audience, and made French chanson an instrument for social change. Her unparalleled talent and commitment were documented in Sylvie Vadureau's fine biography *Colette Magny, Citoyenne-Blues*.

Pierre Perrone

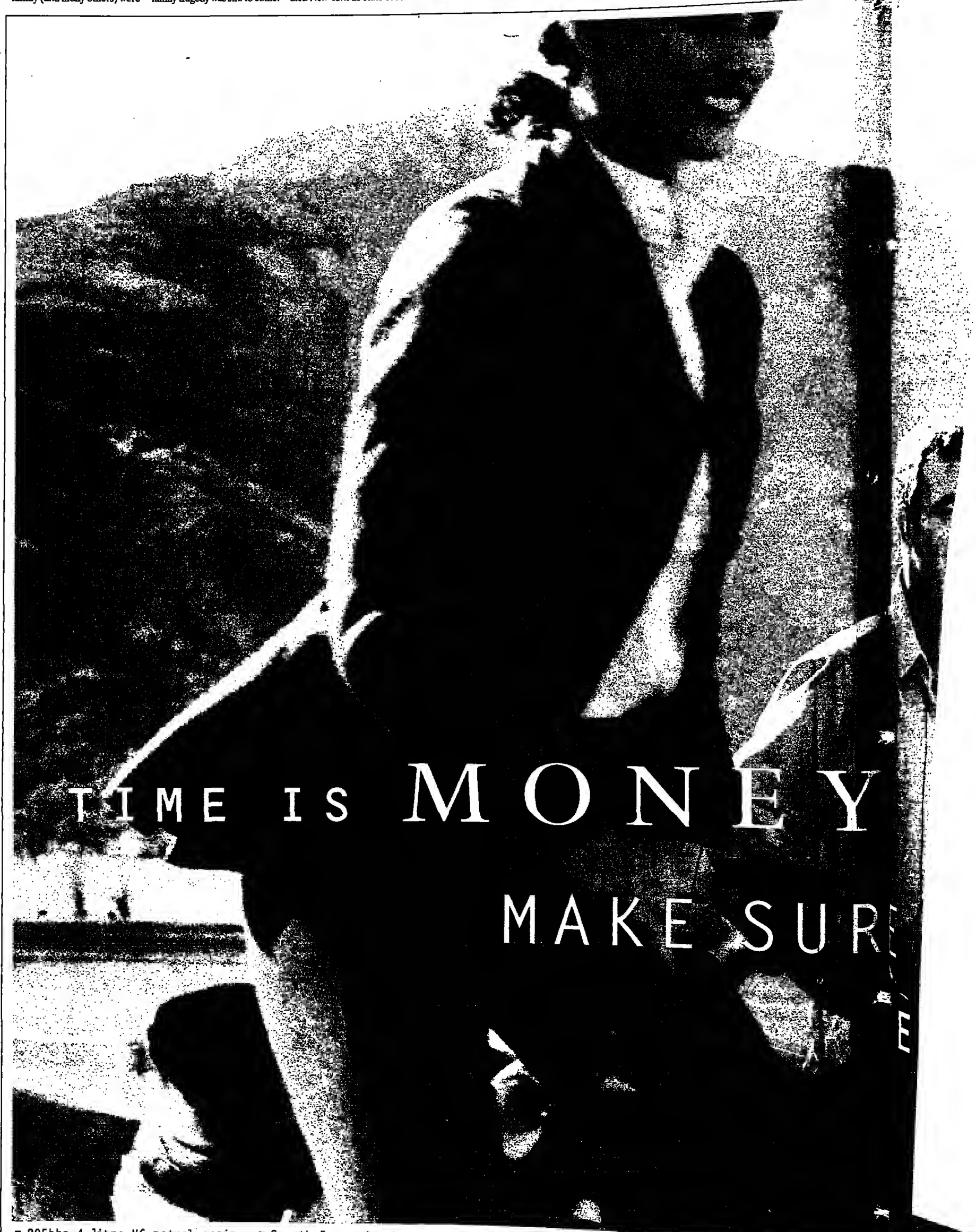
Colette Magny, singer, songwriter, guitarist, translator: born Paris 31 October 1926; died Villefranche-de-Rouerge, France 12 June 1997.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen Mother has luncheon with members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association at the Army and Navy Club, London W1. **The Prince of Wales** visits Preston North End Football Club, Preston, Lancashire; as President, Business in the Community, visits Hornicks's Centenary Mill, Preston; and visits Marks and Spencer, Leyland Trucks and Moor Park County High School, Preston. **The Princess Royal** attends the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association 150th Anniversary Show, Norwich. **Princess Margaret**, President, the Guide Association, gives a reception at Kensington Palace for Queen's Guides. **The Duke of Gloucester**, Patron, Icomos UK (International Council on Monuments and Sites) attends the Summer Meeting at Canterbury, Kent. **The Duke of Kent**, President, visits the headquarters of the Royal National Institution, Poole, Dorset; attends a lifeboat naming ceremony for RNLB *Edward, Duke of Windsor*; and as Patron, visits Aids Trust headquarters, Poole

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at **Horse Guards**, 11am; 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales mounts the Queen's Guard, at **Buckingham Palace**, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.



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Don Henderson

One of television's most enduring detectives of the Seventies and Eighties was the eccentric George Bulman, who was first seen in the thriller series *The XYY Man*, before moving on to fight crime under cover in the long-running *Strangers* and then retiring to work as a clockmaker in *Bulman*, but finding that he could not entirely give up his past.

The gruff-voiced Don Henderson seemed perfectly at home as the quirky character, who enjoyed music, reading and playing with his electric trainset. Just as Inspector Morse was later to indulge a love of opera, Bulman would quote Shakespeare and other classics. It was Henderson's portrayal of the detective that helped to raise the programme to a level above the run-of-the-mill police series. By the time he had taken Bulman into semi-retirement, Henderson made the character memorable for the plastic shopping bag that was always with him, gold-rimmed Edwardian reading glasses and a generally scruffy image.

This was, in fact, a reflection of the actor in real life, who admitted to owning just one suit and wore jeans for his second wedding, to the actress Shirley Stelfox, in 1979. This came two years after the death of Henderson's first wife, Hilary, from a mystery lung disease. In 1980, Henderson underwent treatment for throat cancer that left him with burns that he often hid with a scarf. The cancer, which he overcame, also meant that he spoke in a whisper. Another of the unmarried Bulman's trademarks was his pair of grey woolly gloves, worn by Henderson to cover up the wedding ring he could not remove from his finger.

The only son of a carpenter, Henderson was born in London in 1932 and brought up in Epping, Essex. Having grown up in a working-class environment, he was embarrassed by wealth in later years and said: "I could never have a chauffeur or servants because I'd be so bad at telling them what to do. I dislike giving orders. It isn't me."

Henderson did not become a professional actor until his thirties, after working in amateur theatre and spending almost 20 years of his working life as a dental technician in the Army, a CID officer with Essex police and a salesman. Then, he accepted a "dare" from a friend to audition for the Royal Shakespeare Company, was taken on and stayed for six years, from 1966 to 1972, taking parts that included Perolles in *All's Well That Ends Well*, Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*, the title-role in *Peer Gynt* and Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Henderson later played Floyd in Sam Shepard's *Melodrama Play* in New York.

He first became known to television viewers in the BBC drama series *Warship* (1973-77), which followed the adventures of the frigate HMS *Hero* and her crew. Many television roles followed, in programmes such as *Poldark*, *Softly Softly*, *Dixon of Dock Green*, *Ripping Yarns*, *Dick Turpin* and *The Onedin Line*.

But it was the character of George Bulman that made Henderson a household name. *The XYY Man* (1976-77), based on a novel by Kenneth Royce, introduced Bulman as a police sergeant in the story of a cat burglar, Spider Scott (Stephen Yardley), who was recruited to work with British intelligence services. Bulman progressed to his own series, *Strangers* (1978-82), in the rank of detective sergeant, serving in *Unit 23*, a police squad working under cover in the North of England.

From 1980, Bulman and his colleagues' unit was renamed the Inter City Squad and attempted to solve crimes nationwide. Mark McManus, who later starred as the tough Glasgow detective Taggart, was their boss, Chief Superintendent Lambie. By the end of the final, fifth series of *Strangers*, Bulman had been promoted to the rank of detective inspector.

Henderson revived the character in two series of *Bulman* (1985, 1987), who by then had retired from the force but maintained a contact in the British Secret Service. He did freelance detective work while running a small antiques shop that specialised in repairing clocks. "You were born to be a detective, not a clock mender," he was told by his assistant, Lucy McGinty (played by Siobhan Redmond), the criminologist daughter of a former colleague.

Teaming up with the former *EastEnders* actor Leslie Grantham, as Frank and Danny Kane in two series of the gangland thriller *The Paradise Club* (1989-90), Henderson played a defrocked priest reunited with his brother after the death of their tyrannical mother. He also appeared in the 1987 children's fantasy series *Knights of God*, mixing religion and the Arthurian legend, and throughout the Eighties and Nineties – despite his star status – the prolific actor was happy to continue taking character roles in dozens of television programmes, such as *Jemima Shore Investigates*, *Annika*, *Dead Head*, *Doctor Who*, *Minder*, *Dempsey and Makepeace*, *Last of the Summer Wine*, *Moon and Son*, *Look At It This Way*, *The New Statesman*, *Cracker*, *The Detectives*, *Harry*, *Medics* and *Casualty*.

He also joined his friend Michael Elphick to present the cookery series *The Absolute Beginner's Guide to Cookery*, as well as acting in television films and plays such as *Mavis*, *Squaring the Circle*, *Black and Blue* and *Pat and Margaret*.

Henderson's film appearances included roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1968, with the RSC), *Cullan* (1974), the Oscar-winning special-effects extravaganza *Star Wars* (1977, as General Tagge), *Brazil* (1985), *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* (1989), *Carry On Columbus* (1992), *As You Like It* (1992), *The Trial* (1993), *The Wind in the Willows* (1996) and *Preaching to the Perverted* (1997, as yet unreleased).

Anthony Hayward

Donald Francis Henderson, actor, writer and producer: born London 10 November 1932; twice married (one son, one daughter, one stepdaughter); died Warwick 22 June 1997.

Henderson: 'not a clock mender'

No error in dismissal of father's contact application

LAW REPORT

25 June 1997

Re B (a minor) (Contact: stepfather's hostility); Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Ward) 11 June 1997

A judge was entitled to dismiss a father's contact application at a directions hearing at which the father was not present, following threats by the child's stepfather that if the proceedings continued he would reject the child and the mother.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the father's appeal against an order dismissing his application for contact with the child.

The child's parents were Sikhs. Their marriage broke up shortly after the child's birth in 1988. The mother remarried. In 1993 the father made an application for contact with the child. The stepfather made a statement in which he set out his strong opposition to contact, based on his concern for the child's happiness and stability. He said that it was common in the Asian community that following a divorce the children of the family did not have contact with the other party. If a contact order were made the child would no longer be able to reside with him and the mother, and would be handed over to the father. On the hearing of the application it was agreed that there should be no order, on certain undertakings by the mother and stepfather.

The father made a second application in 1996. At a directions hearing which the father did not attend but at which he was represented, the stepfather indicated that if the proceedings continued he would reject not only the child but the mother as well. An order was made dismissing the application.

John Mitchell (Challinors Lyon Clark, West Bromwich) for the father; Anna Pauffley QC for the Official Solicitor.

Lord Woolf MR handed down the reserved judgement of the court. The short question for consideration on the appeal was whether the judge had been justified in summarily dismissing the father's application for contact when the matter had been listed for directions, no notice of a possible application to dismiss had been given, the father was not present, and the sole ground for the decision was the attitude struck by the stepfather, the justification for which had not been tested in cross-examination.

To deprive a father who bona fide wished to have contact with his child of that contact was a drastic step. The court's general policy was clear: contact between a child and its natural parent was something which should be maintained wherever practical.

The court's general attitude to threats was equally clear. The paramount consideration was the welfare of the child, and the court was only concerned with the interests of the mother and father insofar as they had bearing on the welfare of the child. The court should not hesitate to enforce orders for contact where it judged that it would, overall, promote the welfare of the child to do so. Cases did, unhappily, arise in which the court was compelled to conclude that that an order for immediate direct contact should not be made because it would injure the welfare of the child, but in such cases it was highly desirable that there should be indirect contact.

In an appropriate case, the court had the power to dismiss an application for contact on a directions hearing, but it must bear in mind that the more draconian the order and the more unique the situation, the greater was the need for the court to be satisfied that grave harm was virtually certain to befall the child if the court followed its usual procedure and investigated the matter on its merits.

The judge had fully appreciated that. He had regarded the case as being exceptional and one where in the interest of the child he should deal with the matter summarily. He had concluded that there was a real risk that the child would be in danger of being damaged by being removed from what was a stable and satisfactory home.

The judge could not be criticised for coming to that conclusion. He had been placed on the horns of a fearful dilemma to which, in truth, there was no right answer. He had not erred in principle, and it was impossible to conclude that his decision was outside the generous ambit within which reasonable disagreement was possible.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

Birthdays

Dame Margaret Anstee, former UN Under-Secretary General, 71; Mr Peter Blake, painter, 65; Sir Jack Boles, former Director-General, National Trust, 72; Mr Cyril Fletcher, comedian and broadcaster, 84; Mr Derek Foster MP, 60; General Sir Roland Guy, former Chief of Staff, HQ, BAOR, 69; Mr Eddie Large, comedian, 55; Mr Sidney Lumet, film director, 73; Mr Victor Marks, cricketer, 42; Mr Roy Marsden, actor, 56; Mr George Michael, singer, 34; Mr Richard Morgan, Warden, Radley College, Oxford, 57; Mr Howard Newby, novelist, 79; Sir Kenneth Oxford, former Chief Constable, Merseyside Police, 73; Lord Ravensdale (Nicholas Mosley), writer, 74; Miss Carly Simon, singer and songwriter, 52; Mr Larry Smith, former trade union leader, 75; The Rev Keith Wilkinson, Headmaster, King's School, Canterbury, 49; Professor Sir Arnold Wolfendale, former Astronomer Royal, 70.

Anniversaries

Births: Robert Erskine Childers, writer and Irish nationalist, 1870; George Orwell (Eric Blair), writer, 1903. **Deaths:** Ernest Theodor Amadeus Hoffman, writer, composer and caricaturist, 1822; George Armstrong Custer, cavalry officer, killed in battle 1876. **On this day:** the Battle of the Little Big Horn River was fought – Custer's Last Stand, 1876; Dr Douglas Hyde was inaugurated as the first president of the Irish Republic, 1938. **Today** is the Feast Day of St Adalbert of Egmond, St Eurosia, St Febronia, St Gallicanus, St Gohard, St Maximus of Turin, St Moloc or Luan, St Prosper of Aquitaine, St Prosper of Reggio, St Thea and St William of Vercelli or Monte Vergine.

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Pictures in Pictures (iv): Lotto, *A Lady with a Drawing of Lucrezia*", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Eileen Graham, "Paradise on Earth: gardens in Persia, Morocco, Spain and Mughal India", 7.15pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Andrew Robinson and Krishna Dutta, "Rabindranath Tagore – the myriad minded man", 1.10pm.

British Academy of Forensic Sciences

Professor Peter Vanezis delivered the Presidential Address to the British Academy of Forensic Sciences yesterday at the Royal Society of Medicine, London W1. His subject was "*Forensic Medicine in a Troubled World*".

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London W1. Dr Michael Sanderson, Dr Nicholas Tate and Mr John Berkeley spoke on "Can We Leave Training to the Academic World?"

DEATHS

HOWLETT: On 18 June 1997 peacefully at Bart's, London, Ann Cavenaugh (Norman). Born Hastings, late of Chingford, dearly loved mother of James and wife of Brian, known gratefully and cared for deeply by all her family and friends. Donations if wished for "Breakthrough" (Breast Cancer) charity rather than flowers.

JENKINSON: On 22 June, peacefully at St Michael's Hospice, Hereford, Rosamund, dearly loved by all who knew her. Her funeral will be at Hereford Crematorium on Friday 27 June at 10.30am.

MANNING: (London and Waterford), 17 June 1997, peacefully at home, Patrick (Patsy). Deeply regretted by his loving wife, Maura, daughter Barbara, son Christopher, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Funeral from R.P. Sherry, Bell Street, NW1, at 1.30pm, Thursday 26 June, to Kensal Green Cemetery for 2pm service and interment.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriams) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

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Brits on Broadway

'Cats' sets a record, the handsome new Prime Minister is *chez* Tina and the Princess shimmers at her dress sale. It's a swell party for New York, and Kissinger jaws through it all.
By Reggie Nadelson

New York, new *frisson*: Lord Lloyd-Webber performs to mark the 'Cats' record (top); the Princess of Wales arrives at Christie's with the chairman Lord Hindlip, (left); and Tina Brown and Harry Evans greet the Blairs

"Darling, you must meet the original Rum Tum Tugger!" Cries of "Darling" and "Sweetheart" echoed up and down Broadway at sunset last Thursday. Andrew Lloyd Webber, Trevor Nunn and many dozen, many *score* of cats, the performers (there have been 231) assembled to celebrate *Cats*, the musical, which on Thursday became, after 6,138 performances, the longest-running show in Broadway history, I mean talk about memories! For the finale that evening, Lord Lloyd Webber sat down at a midget piano on stage and sang the one tune that had been cut from the original show, "Cat Morgan introduces Himself". It was nice. But, then, I like *Cats*.

It was Brits on Broadway on Thursday and Brits off most of the rest of the past week, still the hottest immigrant group in town since Boss Tweed ruled Tammany Hall. British media queens are now so famous that, on occasion, even real people, recognise them by their *first names* alone, referring to Tina Brown, editor of *The New Yorker* and Anna Wintour, editor of *Vogue*, as Tina and Anna, as if they were royals. Or models. Even New York's chicest new hairdresser is British, more or less; Irish, anyhow. John Barrett, it is rumoured, did Cherie Blair's hair for Tina's dinner for the Prime Minister on Sunday and Princess Diana's hair for the Christies party on Monday, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

So many Brits; so little time. Hard to tell if this was the beginning of the end or the end of the beginning of the second British invasion, the invasion of the mediabrits, the Tinas and Annas, their underlings and colleagues, who came and stayed, who took over the magazines and publishing houses, who danced at the Reagan White House in the Eighties and joined the Labour Party (long distance) for the Nineties.

THURSDAY

Broadway shut down for *Cats*. There was a gala performance at the Winter Garden Theater where, as I said, Rum Tum Tuggers embraced Grizabellas and Mr Mistoffeleeses air-kissed, and Trevor Nunn posed for *paparazzi* looking not a day older than when *Cats* opened in 1982.

"Darling!"

Mayor Giuliani declared that, in New York, it was Cats Day, and no wonder: *Cats* has, one way and another poured $3.12bn into the New York economy (mostly from tourism) and $195m in taxes, but then this was an occasion for Fat Cat statistics: that "Memory" has been recorded by more than 180 artistes; that the New York production of *Cats* has sold 130,000 sweatshirts; that 19 cast members have died since it all began in 1982. (Worldwide the statistics are even more awesome – the musical has grossed more than $2.2bn) Some say that *Cats* is merely a money machine, that *Cats*, and Lloyd Webber with it, somehow ruined Broadway, that somehow the British invasion, musicals division (mostly meaning Lloyd Webber) wasn't up to par. Frank Rich, the one-time all-powerful *New York Times* theatre critic (now turned columnist), felt compelled to rush, yet again, into print last week to tell us how Lloyd Webber Disneyfied Broadway before Disney got hold of it, that it was *Cats* that first delivered the "theme park, tourist oriented spectacle as a Broadway commodity", as if *Ziegfeld* never existed, and anyhow, who cares?

At the party after the show, I looked at all those cats eating and drinking and I thought, when we're all dead and buried, us and the politicians, the royals, the critics, someone out there is gonna be humming it: "Memoreeeeeeee ..."

SUNDAY

I didn't see Henry Kissinger at *Cats*. Maybe he was reflecting on Pol Pot, maybe not. He was everywhere else, though and no one seemed to mind really that Henry the K talked all the way through Tony Blair's speech at the Tina Brown dinner for the Prime Minister. The "private dinner" (I never quite know what private means when we're talking heads of state), the private dinner took place in the new Tina Brown multi-million-dollar apartment she shares with Mr Brown, aka Harry Evans. Evans, head of Random House, the publisher, is of late, it is said, a passionate devotee of New Labour.

The real question, though, was would Tina Brown become British ambassador to Washington? Would Harry Evans be New Labour's "Culture Czar", although candidates for "Culture Czar" seemed to be lined up now from mid-Manhattan to the Groucho Club.

It was very very hot and the rumours were hotter still. No, Tina Brown did not want to be ambassador. No, President Clinton did not want her for ambassador either because, some whacko alleged – and talk about really wild rumours – it was felt by the White House that she was not especially friendly to the Irish, having turned down an invitation to a state dinner for Mary Robinson.

Late in the afternoon, a spectacular summer storm broke over New York. The Blairs, flying in from Denver and the G7 summit, were delayed. At the Brown-Evans, the assembled had to wait for at least an hour. People mingled. John Kennedy, Jr, did not show. Nor did Steven Spielberg. There were some journalists and novelists, a speechwriter, assorted mediabrits at least two literary agents and a restaurateur. Angelica Houston and Lauren Bacall did for glamour. It got late. Anyone who wanted to eat could eat, said Harry Evans. People looked at the salmon. It looked nice.

Meanwhile, John Prescott and Clare Short (Who? WHO? muttered a few Americans) imported from Britain, a little like the salmon, held the fort.

Eventually, the Prime Minister and Mrs Blair did arrive *chez* Brown and Evans. A group of Labour supporters had been herded into an ante-room where the Blairs were taken first and where they greeted their people. Then they joined the party. Then Blair made a speech (and Kissinger talked through it). Blair said how boring the G7 summit in Denver had been, too much bureaucracy, he said, the implication being that next year, when the G7 is held in Birmingham, it will be a lot better. It will have to be a lot better, being in Birmingham and not Denver.

The party over, a lot of New Yorkers were disappointed not to have caught a glimpse of the handsome new Prime Minister. No town likes celebrity as much as New York, especially if it looks good; this is where the tickertape parade was invented. But one of the requirements for real celebration New York style is that we all get to have a look.

People would have liked it a lot if in New York the Blairs had gone for a walk, seen a show or a ballgame or just dined out with the Mayor and his missus. For just a handshake, New York would have thrown itself at the feet of a Prime Minister. For a Prime Minister who took an interest in the city, in its musicians and politicians, lawyers and artists, teachers and actors, New York would have gone the max.

Instead, Tony and Cheri show up, go to dinner with the usual suspects and the dinner barely makes Monday's papers. "Such a cute guy," a friend said referring to the Prime Minister. "Maybe he'll come back and see us some time."

MONDAY

Kissinger is present again at Christies for a cocktail party in honour of Princess Diana and the dresses that will be auctioned there for charity.

In the evening, Kissinger enters the room chewing gum. He does not seem especially interested in the burgundy velvet dress with the embroidery or the green satin.

Even before the event starts at six, there is a crush on the sidewalk, a line around the corner, a stack of photographers six deep. Many of the New York ladies who have turned out to view the Princess are dolled up, manicured and pedicured, buffed and shined and lacquered and, therefore, not a little miffed at having to *wait in the street*. Jenny Bond, the BBC court correspondent, meanwhile patrols the perimeter in a little yellow outfit.

Eventually, we are allowed in. At the head of the stairs is the woman who organised it all, Meredith Ethrington-Smith, a force of nature in basic black with a pink tulle flower pot for a hat on her head.

There are whispers that Anna and Tina are somewhere in a private room as if Christies were a velvet rope nightclub with a VIP lounge, but it's just another rumour. A wall of women dressed to the nines, punctuated by men in suits, roams the rooms where Diana's dresses are displayed, all of them, the chiffon and velvet, the silk and sequins, the burgundy and green and black and white.

The fashion folk are out in force. Bill Blass here, Arnold Scassi there, Carolyne Roehm. Jessye Norman, the opera diva, is fabulous in pale blue. There are plenty of TV people and reporters and standard issue Brits, and there are, of course, the X-rays. The New York society women, so skinny you can look clean through them, wear tiny dresses and skinny sandals; one woman has ankles so thin I wonder if she can stand up unaided. A band plays. The Perrier Jouet flows. Waiters bearing trays pass the canapés which include many varieties of white bread sandwich filled with tomatoes or cucumbers, chicken or smoked salmon or, as someone exclaims, "luncheon meat".

None of it matters. There is only one point to the party, one reason everybody's anted up 250 bucks (anyone who paid could come) which, along with the profits from the dresses, will go to Aids and breast cancer research. Suddenly she appears.

In the middle of a protective little group of friends and security men, the Princess appears and the crowd moves towards her. She drifts around greeting people, smiling, shaking hands. She is tall, blonde, and athletic. She wears a pale skinny glittery sheath and high heels. As the party goes on, you glimpse her from time to time. She seems to bob along in the middle of the mob of people, like some jewelled object passed from hand to hand.

"I met her, I met her," an American friend says later. "I looked up and she was there and she just smiled and said 'hello' so I just said, 'what a swell party this is.'"

Fashion, The Tabloid, page 10

Beware the stealth of the rubbish skip

Miles Kington

I was looking at a skip being removed the other day, just idly watching the great metal rubbish bin being hoisted into the sky, and it suddenly occurred to me that when I was a lad I had never seen this being done *because when I was a lad there were no such things as skips*.

At least, I can't remember there being such things. When I rewind the patchy and faulty video that I call my memory, I see no pictures of skips in it. I don't know how rubbish was taken away 40 years ago, but I am pretty sure it wasn't in skips. Which leads me to the amazingly simplistic theory that things we all take for granted arrive sort of stealthily and then behave as if they had always been there.

Bar codes, for instance.

They haven't been around very long.

I can remember a time when nothing was bar-coded, and not so very long ago either, a time when Sainsbury's check-out cashiers did not pass objects over little glass screens which then beeped and put the price on the bill. (Incidentally, has there ever been a case of bar-code fraud? Has anyone ever gone into a big store and put labels with their own bar codes on objects to make a cheaper price ring up? Just a thought ...)

I can remember a time before cash machines and credit cards. I can remember a time before LP records. I can remember when there was no such thing as ITV, a time when my mother listened to *Mrs Dale's Diary* every day, a time when my father took our car abroad and got it into the ship by driving it into a big net *which was then lifted into the boat by a crane*. I can remember when people roamed freely inside Stonehenge, and I even have a photo of myself doing that very thing.

What I can't remember is when any of that stopped and when any of the modern things started. I have no vision of a newspaper headline saying, "Rubbish Skips Start Operations in Britain tomorrow", or an announcement to the effect that all the Dale family would be killed off in a final cataclysmic episode. This all steals up on us unawares. Very occasionally things come in with a bang and drum roll, like parking meters or seat belts, and sometimes they go out with an obituary, like National Service, but most things just arrive unnoticed.

Or depart without saying goodbye. A modern child who has seen a car drive on to a ferry would find it hard to believe they were lifted by cranes in the old days. I can remember seeing my first musical postcard – a souvenir postcard which was actually also a 45rpm record so that you could play souvenir music on a souvenir picture – and I thought it was so clever that they would always be with us, but I don't think I have seen one for 20 years.

Another example. My son's Cub troop recently did what we used to call Bob-a-Job Week. We don't have bobs any more. We don't have shillings or coins with names any more. So what do you think the Cubs call Bob-a-Job Week these days? I'll tell you what they call it. They call it Bob-a-Job Week still because it's still the best possible name, a rare instance of something being preserved from a former age. (I recently went to Spain at a time when the exchange rate was about 230 or 240 pesetas to the pound, and it suddenly struck me that this meant the peseta was worth exactly what the old pre-decimal penny was worth, and that therefore 100 pesetas was eight shillings and fourpence, and a fat lot of good this discovery was to me ...)

Another example. I met a man recently who owns a 1930 Bugatti racing car. There was something very odd about it. It had a passenger seat. What on earth did a racing car need a passenger seat for?

"To take the mechanic," he said. "Up to about 1932 all racing drivers took mechanics with them. This was because races weren't just around closed circuits – they were also long distance, from Moscow to Paris for example – and they needed mechanics badly."

"Why did they dispense with the extra seat, then?"

"Too many mechanics getting killed."

Now, this was all news to me, but the Bugatti man took it for granted. I just hope someone is making notes of all these changes.

Last example. My nine-year-old son does not know what a Belisha beacon is. Well, he knows what it is, but he doesn't know it is called that. Yet I can remember my father not only telling me the name, but the origin.

"It's named after the man who introduced them, Hore-Belisha. Same man who introduced mandatory driving tests."

"Strange name, Hore-Belisha."

"Well," said my father, "the story is that his real name was Horeb-Elisha, but that he felt this sounded too Jewish, so he moved the hyphen one letter and changed it to Hore-Belisha."

I was too young to doubt his word at the time, but I am not now. Unfortunately, my father is no longer alive. And if anyone is wondering what this piece is all about, you know now. What I want to know is this: does anyone know if there was any truth in what my father said?

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

How speedy will we be in the race for knowledge?

Hamish McRae
in Phoenix, Arizona

If there is a new fissure in society, there is also an opportunity for the laggards to catch up

We seem to have have had a plethora of summits: Euro-summits, the G7 Plus 1 (Russia) econnmic summit, the United Nations earth summit, and so on. But the chances are that you haven't heard of the knowledge summit. It is taking place at the moment in Torontn: a gathering of 1,500 people, organised by the Canadian government and the World Bank. Luminaries include Kofi Annan, secretary general of the UN, a couple of presidents, the odd Nobel laureate and a number of academics and writers on the interaetion between technology, knowledge and social ehange.

However sceptical you are about the value of summits (and to judge by the recent crop, a certain scepticism is in order) this one does raise a new and vital issue: the growing division in the world between countries, and people, who have access to knowledge, and those who don't. But if there is a new fissure in society, there is also an opportunity for laggards to catch up.

The most obvious example of the extraordinarily rapid ehanges taking place in the transfer of knowledge is the Internet. Its development means that the volume of information that is potentially available to anyone in the world with access to a computer and a phone has soared on a scale that has never occurred before in history. This may turn out to be as important as the invention of the printing press. At the moment it is in its infancy and, as with any new technology, it is hard to grasp the social implications. But it is absolutely clear that it can create a new divide, rather like the division a generation or two ago between people who could drive and had access to a car, and the rest: those with a computer and the skill to use it, and those without.

But that is just the newest example of the ways in which knowledge is being transferred. Another is internatiooal investment: when a multinational builds a factory in another country, it is transferring not just the production, but also the knowledge associated with it. Companies have to train people to work the new plant, and countries have to improve their level of general education so that workers can be more easily trained. It is no accident that the fast-growing economies of East Asia place enormous importance on education.

This raises a tough question for any developed country such as our own. In a world where information is almost infinitely available and where knowledge can cross national boundaries at ever-greater speed, how do we sustain a comparative advantage?

There are, of course, some things which governments can do, sueh as putting computers into schools and, now, hooking them up to the Internet. But this cannot just be a job for government. The business community has an enormous part to play. In the US it is increasingly being recognised that the principal asset of a company is the brains of its people. Capital is not scarce: you can borrow it, or raise it from shareholders. Manufacturing capacity is easily available: you can get anything made, anywhere in the world. The scarce resource is knowledge. The more you can foster that, the more likely you are to succeed.

US-based business, in particular, recognises this, and some organisatinns have established in-house universities to help lift the knowledge base of their staff. I happen to be in the US at the moment because I am working with two sueh organisations, Arthur Andersen and Motorola, on education programmes. Some UK companies – Rover is a good example – have also worked extremely hard to offer a wide range of educational opportunities for their people. As we will all need to be "retrofitted" with uprated skills to cope with the new technologies, there is a strong incentive for employers to carry on pushing up educational levels. The wisest of them will recognise that knowledge is such a complex, subtle thing that they should support a wide variety of education, and not just restrict their activities to job-related training.

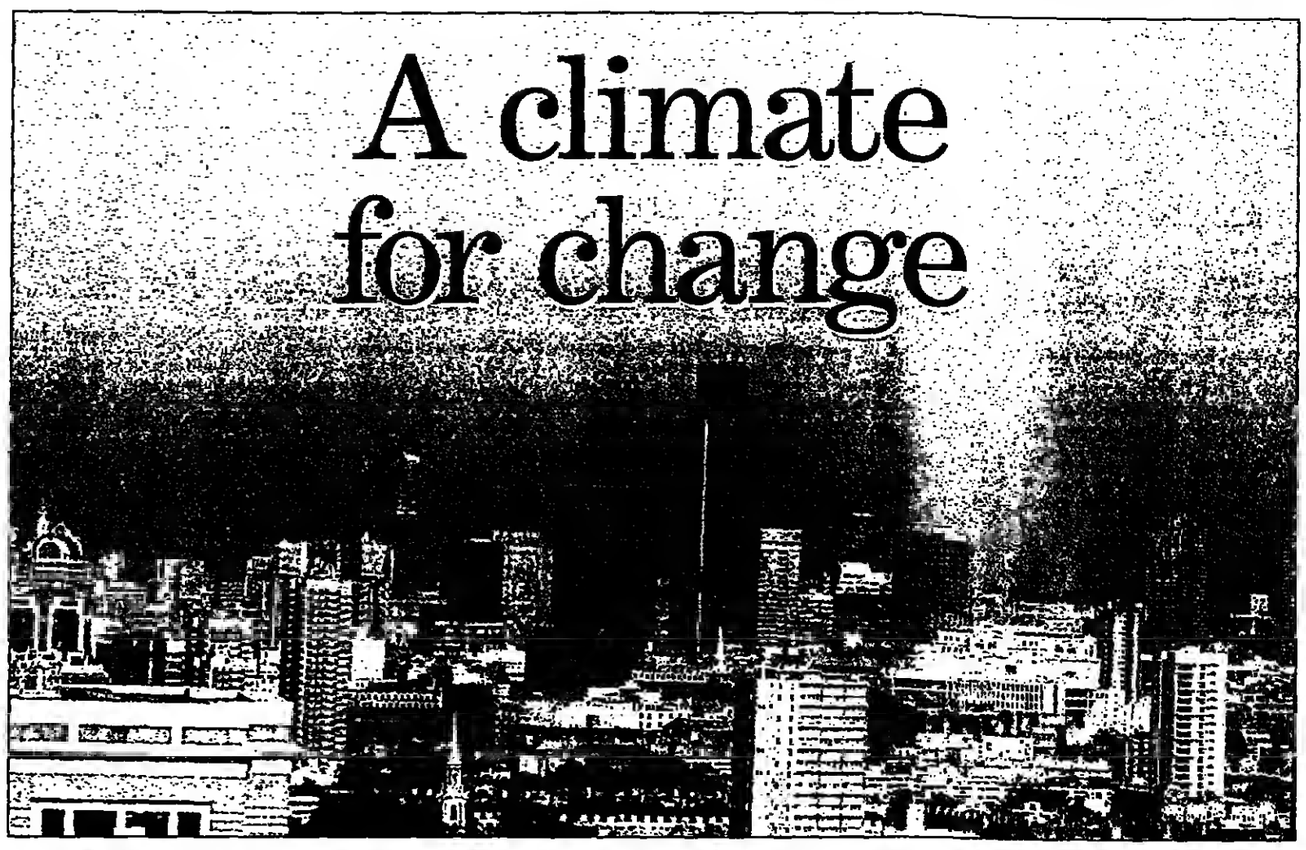
All this, though, is coneentrating on the supply side: the supply of information, the supply of knowledge, the supply of education. There is a completely different way of looking at the process, which is to look at the demand side. Why do some countries, some people, for that matter, want more and better education? Part of the reason – maybe most of it – for the high educational standards in many East Asian countries, is the demand for knowledge. Supply has risen to meet demand, as much as the other way round.

This matters enormously now that information is becoming infinitely available through the Internet. Sure, information is not the same as knowledge, but as the Internet and associated technologies become more sophisticated, they will become an increasingly important teaching tool. To an extent unique in history, anyone with access to the Internet, wherever he or she is in the world, will have access to the vast pool of global knowledge which has suddenly become available for the price of a local phone call. What will distinguish us will, more and more, be not the supply of knowledge, but our demand for it.

This is why the issues being debated in Toronto matter. A world of infinite information puts a premium on judgement, to sort out the nuggets from the rubble. It also puts a premium on an eagerness to learn. So competition in education will lie more and more in fostering judgement and enthusiasm. This is an opportunity for developed and developing world alike.

But it is also a threat for those parts of the world, and those people, who can't be bothered. How do you create a knowledge culture? Well, you start by talking and thinking about it.

A climate for change



by Andrew Marr

Blair's speech on global warming presages a steady pressure on our lifestyles and assumptions

Most political speeches are unreported because they are propaganda – mild, well-meaning propaganda these days, but propaganda nooe the less. As exercises in thinking out loud – intellectual challenges – they tend to be dreadful, a dispiriting mix of the familiar and the banal. Most of the time, newspapers perform a useful public service in ignoring them.

Wheo a useful new idea comes, it comes not to politicians, but to scientists, academics, eccentric garden-shed potterers, poets or other loners. Then it migrates to policy wonks. Politicians intercept it, at best, shortly before it enters the comfort zone of dinner-party wisdom. They then express it, often rather woodenly, and always late. But we take notice because, by then, the idea may have an impact on our lives.

Tony Blair's speech on global climate change said nothing that hasn't been said better by Edward O Wilsoo or James Lovelock. But it was a speech very well worth reporting and thinking about. It was a speech that signals a ehange. It was the beginning of something real, not a piece of passing propaganda or point-scoring.

Labour's view has shifted quickly. Only a few years ago, I vividly remember a post-lunch conversation with an MP who is now in the Cabinet. I had asked about the environment and received a brisk, earthy description of the failings of the middle classes. Labour was the party of ordinary working people, and they required industry, and industry meant pollution. That was the price of economic growth. Environmentalism? That was all introspective middle-class digital manipulaflon.

Times ehange. I was recently at a seminar on climate change where ministers, scientists, pressure-group leaders, businessmen and civil servants debated global warming. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, argued that an important part of his role will be to act as a goad for economic and social change to avert environmental disasters. In a world of water shortages, trade arguments and global warming, foreign and environmental policy will fuse.

How very convenient for the left. And, up to a point, green politics is the new socialism. Greens and reds share a certain puritanism and a strong belief in state action.

The new environmentalism, like the old soeialism, will require growing bureaucracies. It will oeed rules to check the free market and, indeed, individual freedoms. It will not be totalitarian. But it will be a finger-wagging, nannyish ereed.

Here is what the president of Washington's Worldwatch Institute said seven years ago, when he gave the world 40 years to make the ehange to an environmentally stable society: "If we have not succeeded by then, environmental deterioration and economic decline are likely to be feeding on eaeh other, pulling us into a downward spiral of social disintegration." Doesn't that sound similar to the prophecy of economie doom made constantly by the old Marxians? And – oh joy of joys – it is still the Americans who are most to blame!

The great difference, however, is that the Marxist doomsters had a few bad economists and social scientists on their side: while the ecological wateh-tappers have real scientists and, increasingly, serious business figures.

The last thing New Labour wants is a clash between the duties of government and the desires of new, New Labour voters. The evidence is convincing hut up to now politicians, locked into a politics of "our growth rate is bigger than their growth rate", have been simply unable to handle it.

Edward O Wilson, in *In Search of Nature*, imagines extra-terrestrial observers of the Earth watching as "the forests shrink back to less than half their original cover. Atmospheric carbon dioxide rises to the highest level in 100,000 years. The ozone layer of the stratosphere thins, and holes open at the poles. Plumes of nitrous oxide and other toxins rise from fires in South America and Africa, settle in the upper troposphere, and drift eastward across the oceans..."

The watchers, Wilson muses, might conclude that it was inevitable that some species would eventually gain intelligent control of Earth. But bad luck, he mordantly argues, that it was us, who have swiftly become a geophysical force, doubling to 5.5 billion in the past 50 years and scheduled to do the same in the next 50: "No other single species in evolutionary history has even remotely approached the sheer mass in protoplasm generated by humanity. Darwin's dice have rolled badly for Earth."

The extreme possibilities that are thrown up by ecological ehange ereate extreme reactions – from mankind-hating eco-warriors to the complacency of unapologetic Western consumerism – the "let's buy a second Merc and stuff the planet" brigade. That is blander than eco-doom but equally extreme, and in part encouraged by the very doomyness of the doomsters. There has been no middle way between panie and complacency.

Between the extremes, democratic politics must function. The joh of politics is to take these ideas away from the prophets and into the market place; to domesticate them. This will happen in stages. First comes the softening-up speechifying of politicians functioning as popularisers.

Then come the first measures, next the carbon and petrol taxes, the road pricing, the reinvestment in public transport and insulation. But if the scientists are right, there will be a bigger political agenda after that, including the beginnings at least of a serious look at levels of consumption. One understands why politicians flinch at the thought of any serious threat to the "great car economy". But their current pitch of painless, high-consumption yet effective environmentalism is bunk: either the rhetoric is overstated or the politicians haven't thought about what their words imply.

Like it or loathe it, this is the politics of the future. If he is a true leader, it will be one of the issues that dominates Blair's time in Downing Street. How far should he push green taxes? How tough should he be in trade talks? Negotiating between contending extremists will be diffieult, though it is good that Blair is moderate – no ideologue could find a compromise between panic-stricken flat-earthers and middle-class consumers in deep denial.

But unless Blair's speech in New York was an example of shameless, outrageous propaganda, then it presages a steady and eventually controversial pressure on our lifestyles and assumptions. The tax and regulatory ehanges may not come all at once. But come they will, one after another, and all in the same direction. Those who think that a New Labour administration will be necessarily bland had better go back and read that speech once more.

The Stalinist Tories need purging

Arrogance and a fundamental lack of democratic rights within the party cost us the election, says **Eric Chalker**

Constitutionally, the Conservative Party, my party, is no better than the old Soviet communist party and it stinks. There is a significance attached to the Conservative leadership electoral process which can escape the casual observer. When the 22 procedures laid down by the 1922 Committee for the conduct nf their election come to an end, there is a 23rd. For William Hague, it happened last Thursday evening, following the declaration of his victory over Kenneth Clarke.

The 23rd procedure is the imposition of the MPs' choice on the rest of the party. This takes place at a "party meeting" comprising MPs, MEPs, Conservative peers and members of the National Union Executive Committee. The MPs' ehoice is required to be "presented for confirmation as party leader" – in other words, as the leader of the whole party, not just its MPs. The significance of this step is not just that this is the point at which the parliamentary party asserts its supremacy over the rest of the party, in hugely undemocratie fashion. It is also the point at which absolute control of Conservative Central Office and the party's ceotral funds passes from the nld leader to the new. This control is so absolute it amounts to a form of personal ownership, confirmed by the courts (in defiance of the Inland Revenue) in the early 1980s.

The Conservative Party itself has no corporate form. There can be no democratic structure for a political party that doesn't even have a constitntion. Central Office controls the party's disparate parts because of the power that flows from the leader. It is the original "leader's private office", now copied by Tony Blair. Even though Central Office is almost certainly still heavily in debt (for which William Hague now carries personal responsibility), its income from largely secret sources has been so substantial that it puts Tony Blair's private office in the shade. Anomalously, the latter is declared in the register of members' interests but the former is not, yet they serve the same purpose, which is the concentration of personal power funded in secret.

The exercise nf this overwhelming power by Conservative leaders is not subjeet to any democratie or constitutional constraints and yet it extends over all party activities. It is an astonishing instrument to place in the hands of any party leader. Even more so when that leader has been ehosen by such a narrow franehise.

The party leader's claim to this power rests upon the highly questionable device of the so-called party meeting described above. But for such a significant event, the proceedings are seriously flawed. The transfer of so mueh power – much more than just political leadership – demands a formal resolution, explicitly framed and formally voted upon. This has never been done.

I have attended each of the last three party meetings, including last week's. All have been conducted as political rallies and the constitutional issues that cry out to be addressed have been deliberately ignored. Last Thursday, despite having given advance notice of my desire to speak on these issues, my request was refused. Yet again, the parliamentary party has demonstrated the arrogance whieh cost us the last election. It has no real regard at all for party members outside parliament.

The mishandling of the party meeting is nn small matter: there is no other occasion that representatives of the constituency associations can attend which has the constitutional authority even to consider the question, let alone decide it. In 1992, over 50 constituency associations attempted to do this by calling a special meeting of the party's Central Council, but they were blocked.

Had I been allowed to speak at last Thursday's meeting, I would have objected to the fact that one person alone has exclusive control of Central Office and its money. I would bave objected to the leader's appointment of a so-called party chairman and other party officers to exercise authority over the oon-parliamentary party. Such officers should be confined to parliamentary affairs, or otherwise elected and answerable to all the party.

I would also have objected to the leader's presumed exclusive right to make policy, across the board, free from any democratic process of decision-making. We need to become vastly more mature in our affairs.

There can be no substantial reform of the party without putting in place a proper party constitution, to guarantee democratie rights for party members and provide for ehanges to the distribution of power within the party. Without such reform, the party will be going nowhere.

The writer is a member of the Conservative National Union Executive Committee.

Poverty and drugs: a recipe for murder in Dublin's fair city

While queuing for coffee in a Mary Street café near Dublin's O'Connell Street one evening, a colleague and I are distracted by a painfully skinny young man asking staff for a metal spoon. Refused, he runs nut though the door with it anyway. People are seldom this desperate for a plastie one to stir their tea, but with a metal one you can heat a fix of heroin.

Fifty yards from my front door, a disused barracks building is takeo over by teenage boys and girls for an hour or two at a time. Where once bottles of cider would have explained their visit, the reason now is less obvinus, though syringes placed behind the ear while they scale the railings end speculation. With addicts apparently driven here by vigilante violence nearby, the red-brick building soon becomes a 24-hour heroin supermarket.

Victim: Veronica Guerin
Eamonn Farrell/Photocall

A few weeks ago the authorities were pressed into bricking over doors and windows and topping railings with razor wire. The business has moved elsewhere. In the last month demonstrations in Balbriggan and Bray, to the north and south of the capital respectively, have highlighted areas of wnrsening drug problems. Residents' marches, check-points and patrols have had an impact. This month witnessed public anger at drug-related erime around O'Connell Street, where young addicts now congregate.

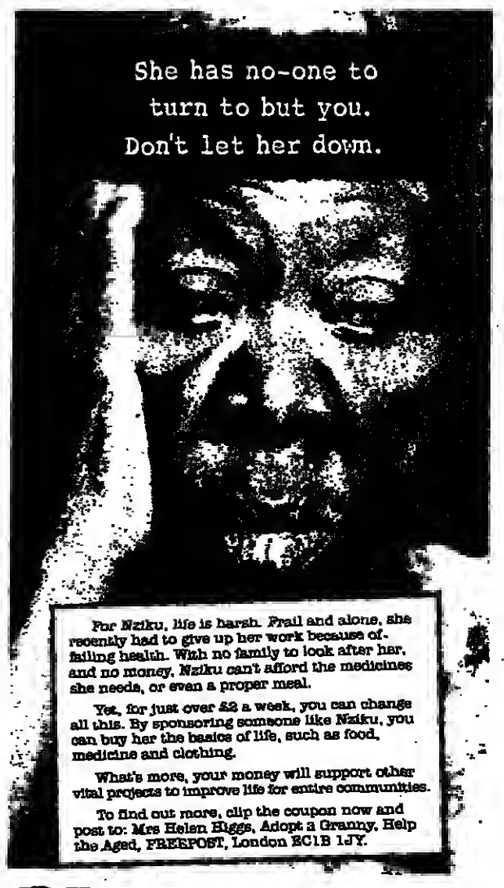
Mnch of the offensive on "drug barons" that was promised after the killing of Veronica Guerin, crime correspondent of the Irish *Sunday Independent*, a year ago tomorrow, has targeted major known drug importers who supply an estimated 8,000 heroin addicts.

The main players hehind the killing have been abroad since the shooting, which was carried out by a motorcycle pillion passenger as the jnuroalist stopped her car at traffic lights. One suspect is in custody in Britain awaiting trial on serious charges. Others, main dealers and associates, are in Spain and the Netherlands.

The outpouring of public anger at the killing, and the impunity the killers apparently felt, marked a watershed. For years Government and police chiefs were too preoccupied with Northern Ireland to sense the enormity of the drug disaster on their own doorstep. The official response, in the absence of the main murder suspects, has targeted the proeeeds of crime, with extensive property, including cars, boats and even racehorses, being seized by the new Criminal Assets Bureau.

With up to 80 cent of addicts known to be male and predominantly unemployed working class, recreation and employment initiatives are now cited as urgent anti-drugs priorities. But worrying policing gaps remain, including the lack of a witness protection programme, a measure of the alarming naivety of the authorities in dealing with organised crime in a city where intimidation of juries is assumed. The absence of fast-track promotion for graduates joining the police force, (starting pay for basic entrants: £12,040 a year) discourages precisely the structured intelligence needed to combat sophisticated crime.

Alan Murdoch in Dublin



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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

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Liddell carries out 'name and shame' pensions threat

Nic Cicutti
Personal Finance Editor

Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, yesterday carried out her threat to "name and shame" insurers dragging their feet over the pensions mis-selling scandal by attacking Legal & General and the Sedgwick Group for poor responses to the issue.

The minister said she had singled out the two companies because they had failed to understand the urgency involved in sorting out the question of compensation to those affected.

Mrs Liddell threatened that unless she was convinced by the autumn that companies were on target with their conduct of the pensions review, she would be prepared to take other, unspecified, action to force them to comply..

Her comments followed the publication by the Treasury of responses by 24 insurance companies and large financial advice firms, in which they gave details of how they proposed to resolve the problem. The responses were demanded after a meeting in which Mrs Liddell read the riot act, accusing firms of inertia on the subject.

In a reply to a Parliamentary Question from the Labour MP Stephen Timms yesterday, Mrs Liddell said: "While most of the policy statements sent to me showed a business-like sense of purpose, I regret that there are two which appear to misunderstand the Government's determination that this matter must be resolved with despatch."

Mrs Liddell singled out the Sedgwick Group, one of the largest firms of independent financial advisers, for its response. In its letter, the company claimed to be "disappointed that the minister did not have the opportunity to brief herself on the background prior to calling the meeting at the Treasury, or particularly, writing the follow-up letter to us."

L&G came under fire for suggesting that criticisms contained in the Minister's letter were not justified.

Mrs Liddell said that in about two weeks the Treasury would be releasing details of the speed with which the 24 companies concerned had dealt with pension review cases.

She is also expecting the PIA, currently responsible for tens of thousands of so-called "orphan clients", where IFAs have gone out of business, to deal with its cases as swiftly as the rest of the industry.

But the minister warned against shortcuts: "There are some cases that firms are adopting or considering, accelerated case management techniques which will improve the speed of case handling without prejudicing investors' rights.

"However, I shall be looking for evidence that firms are showing their sincerity and commitment to customer service."

David Prosser, group chief executive at L&G, yesterday said he was "extremely disappointed" to hear his company had been singled out for attack. "I did not know about this until this afternoon," Mr Prosser added. "Our letter was a response to comments by the minister in which she asked for an assurance that we would not 'continue to wrong our clients'. We are not continuing to wrong them."

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BDB digital victory may be challenged

Cathy Newman

The award yesterday of three digital terrestrial television licences to British Digital Broadcasting was last night facing the threat of twin legal and regulatory challenges.

United News & Media, part of the losing Digital Television Network consortium, said it was consulting lawyers over the Independent Television Commission's decision to award the licences to BDB, which is backed by Carlton Communications and Granada Group. BSkyB was forced to drop out of BDB at the insistence of the ITC.

However, United could shy away from legal action if it adopts an alternative plan to join the consortium bidding for another of the licences on offer – multiplex A, which will carry the Channel 5 and S4C digital services.

Separately, Oftel, the telecommunications watchdog, set itself on a collision course with the ITC after it said Sky's withdrawal from BDB was not enough to satisfy competition worries, as the satellite operator had arranged to supply programming.

Don Cruickshank, director general of Oftel, said: "The participation of BSkyB either as a consortium member or as a long-term supplier of certain pay-TV services, in particular sports programming, raised substantial competition concerns in the pay-TV network and conditional access markets."

United, headed by Lord Hollick, may become involved with digital television through the back door by joining forces with S4C Digital Networks (SDN), the company bidding for multiplex A.

A well-placed senior television source said it was likely that Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, which is awaiting a takeover bid from Granada, would pull out of an agreement to take a 40 per cent stake in SDN.

Sources said United would be looking carefully at taking Yorkshire's place and funding SDN's bid, especially as Lord Hollick's media group had a 29 per cent stake in Channel 5. The ITC said yesterday it was still considering the application from SDN for this service.

As it announced the long-awaited licence awards, the ITC praised the quality of programming offered by the rival bidder, Digital Television Network, a consortium backed by the cable company NTL, but said it had had doubts about its financing arrangements.

Peter Rogers, chief executive of the ITC, said: "We did like and prefer the DTN programmes, but we had some worries about their pulling power in terms of revenue and penetration."

The ITC confirmed publicly yesterday that it had taken the "preliminary views" of the European Commission and the Office of Fair Trading, and said it had asked BSkyB to drop its shareholding in BDB but maintain its programming commitments.

Barclay Knapp, NTL's chief executive, said the ITC's decision was disappointing, and raised "continuing and serious concerns in relation to competition and other matters".

Michael Green, chairman of BDB, said it was "a great day for British television", and added that Britain was "at the head of the worldwide digital television revolution".

Good news by fax: (from left) Nigel Walmsley, director of British Digital Broadcasting, David Cameron, head of corporate communications at Carlton Communications and Michael Green, chairman of BDB, celebrating the licence award granted by the ITC yesterday Photograph: PA

From mid-1998, BDB subscribers will get 12 channels at a basic but as yet undisclosed rate. They will, however, have to pay extra to get three premium channels. The ITC said a current investigation into so-called "bundling" of channels could force BDB to let consumers pick and choose individual channels without having to pay extra. BSkyB is thought to have negotiated a seven-year programming deal with BDB as a condition of withdrawing its equity stake in the consortium. The satellite operator confirmed yesterday that it would receive £75m in compensation for pulling out of the consortium.

Henderson Crosthwaite said it estimated BDB would lure 3.3 million subscribers by the end of the 12-year licence period. BDB would attract 300,000 subscribers by the end of next year, and a further 600,000 by the end of 1999, according to Henderson.

Comment, page 21

Crown takes over Regan case

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

The legal fall-out from Andrew Regan's failed bid for the Co-op took a fresh turn yesterday when the Crown Prosecution Service said it was taking over the criminal proceedings brought by the CWS against him and his allies in the affair.

The decision means that the court hearing scheduled for next week is likely to be adjourned. Mr Regan's lawyers do not expect a hearing until September.

The intervention of the CPS could also mean that Mr Regan's advisers, which include Hambros Bank and Travers Smith Braithwaite, could be dragged further into the affair with senior figures expected to be subpoenaed.

The CPS said it had referred the case to Greater Manchester Police who had been asked to conduct an investigation into alleged criminal activity. The CPS will then make a decision on whether or not to proceed with the case against Mr Regan, his business partner David Lyons and the former head of CWS retailing, Allan Green.

Both the Co-op and the Regan camp said they had asked the CPS to take on the case. The CWS said: "The seriousness of this situation has been recognised by the appropriate authorities, who have now taken responsibility for the matter."

Mr Regan's lawyer, Ian Burton of Burton Copeland, expressed similar satisfaction: "It is exactly what we wanted. It puts the whole prosecution on a level playing field. But I would be very surprised if they proceed."

If the CPS does proceed it is expected that senior figures at Mr Regan's advisers will be brought in as defendants in the case. These could include Sir Chips Keswick, chief executive of Hambros Bank which reached a financial settlement with the CWS over its role in the failed £1.2bn bid.

Mr Burton said Mr Regan was very happy to co-operate with the police. It is understood that he will make his files available to the police for inspection. This will include correspondence from the legal, professional and financial advisers who acted on his behalf in the bid.

Investors lambast Sears board

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

The board of Sears, the struggling retail group, was given a hostile reception at its annual meeting in central London yesterday as small shareholders vented anger over the company's dismal performance.

The directors faced a barrage of angry questions on the pay-off to former chief executive Liam Strong, the company's poor record and the lack of retail experience on the board. There was also more bad news on trading with the group showing a slowdown in childrenswear sales and falling sales in its footwear operations.

"Looking at the board, it would seem to be wonderfully constituted for anything but a retail company," one small shareholder said.

Another shareholder, a Mr Muriel, criticised the compensation paid to Mr Strong who left the company in April. "He leaves with £465,000. My question is: Why?"

Sir Bob Reid, the Sears chairman responded by saying that the company was merely fulfilling its contractual obligations. This failed to satisfy the packed audience, with one investor declaring the payment "blatantly rewarded failure".

Mr Muriel further criticised the board's remuneration committee for agreeing to pay additional sums to Mr Strong if he failed to secure equivalent employment within nine months of his resignation.

Mr Strong was not at the meeting yesterday. Sir Bob said he was "very busy" doing consultancy work.

There was a ripple of ironic applause when Sir Bob announced that David Macdonald was to step down as a non-executive director of Sears after 16 years on the board. The former Cabinet minister Lord Tebbit, on the Sears board for 10 years, was also the target of a personal attack. "I'd like to know what Norman Tebbit actually does for a retailer?" asked one shareholder. Sir Bob replied: "I will not answer that because I do not intend to talk about individuals. I believe in self-respect."

A trading statement showed that Sears' like-for-like sales in the 19 weeks to 14 June rose 2.5 per cent against a 5.3 per cent jump for the first 11 weeks. Sales slowed at Adams childrenswear while the shoe operations will make a significant loss.

George voices strongest warning on single European currency

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, last night delivered his strongest warning so far against launching the single European currency. The move would be fraught with risk if some member countries had not improved the flexibility of their jobs markets, he said.

"I am frankly nervous at the prospect of introducing the euro at a time of very high and very different rates of unemployment across Europe," Mr George said in the annual Mais lecture at City University.

The Governor, who is a long-standing if moderate sceptic about monetary union, warned that labour market reform must be an urgent priority for European governments. "We have to find answers to the urgent problem of European unemployment."

Mr George said economic policy had converged to a remarkable degree across Europe, with wide acceptance of the need for stable prices and budgetary discipline. There was a commitment across the political spectrum to macroeconomic stability as a necessary condition for the sustainable growth of output and employment, he said.

But stable macroeconomic policies were not enough, as illustrated by the fact that output had stagnated and unemployment risen inexorably.

Mr George said: "My concern is that the persistence of these wholly unacceptable levels of unemployment across Europe ... could begin to undermine public support for macroeconomic stability in some countries."

Fill your trolley with a TV when you shop at Tesco

Sameena Ahmad

Shoppers at Tesco will soon be able to pick up a television set along with their bread and mange tout at their local store. In the next two months the UK's leading supermarket group intends to roll out the sale of televisions in almost 300 of its stores around the country.

This marks the start of a big, but belated push by Tesco into the brown goods market – televisions, videos and audio equipment. Asda and Sainsbury, through its SavaCentres, already sell a range of brown goods. Safeway is also known to be talking to suppliers about introducing electrical goods.

Analysts said that while Tesco's move, which represents an escalation in the war between the supermarket groups, was highly risky for the company it could damage the profits of the high street electrical shops like Dixons and Comet, owned by Kingfisher.

"This is high risk for Tesco. Electrical goods is such a nasty price-competitive market. People will be asking what Tesco is doing in such a tough area. Most of the retailers don't make any money on these products, just on the warranties," said one leading retail analyst who declined to be named. "If it is true, it is certainly very negative for Dixons and Kingfisher. These companies will have to match Tesco's prices and it will hit profitability," the analyst added.

Tesco is already trialling the sale of a limited number of television in its largest UK store, the Pitsea hypermarket near Basildon in Essex. The group brought in 24 Amstrad 14-inch televisions into the store on 10 June for a cut price of £119 which "sold out in three hours", according to a salesperson at the store.

Yesterday Tesco's Pitsea shop put 16 flat screen, 28-inch Bush televisions, made by electrical group Alba, on the shelves selling for £299.99. "They've only been here for a few hours and already most are gone."

Though a spokesman for Tesco said it had "no plans to sell on an ongoing basis in any other store apart from Pitsea", sources within the company confirmed there would be a roll-out of televisions and possibly videos into the group's 297 superstores within the next two months. "We expect to be briefed near the end of the week and go nationwide in a couple of months. All our major superstores will be selling televisions," said one insider.

Over the last few years supermarkets have been gradually expanding beyond their core food and drink product range to use floor space as effectively as possible. Sainsbury has announced a deal with healthcare group Sinclair Montrose to open in-store doctor surgeries. Asda tinked up with George Davies, ousted chairman of Next, to sell clothes.

Tunnel sees light on concession extension

Hopes were rising last night that Eurotunnel will be granted an extension to its Channel Tunnel concession after the company met British and French government officials to press its case for the first time since Labour got back into power, **writes Michael Harrison.**

Eurotunnel wants its concession lengthened from 65 to 99 years. It has warned that without an extension it will probably not get shareholder support for an £8.7bn debt refinancing at an extraordinary meeting on 10 July.

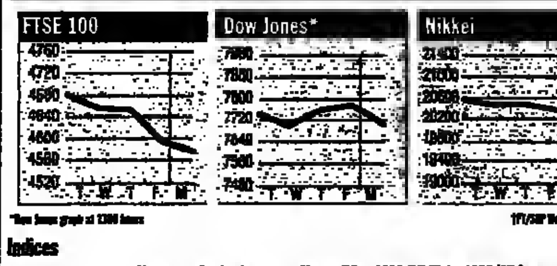
After yesterday's talks in Paris the UK Department of Transport said: "We will negotiate constructively but we will not be bound by any timetable."

Speaking in Paris before the meeting, Eurotunnel's chairman, Patrick Ponsolle, pledged to do everything in his power to ensure that an "agreement in principle" was in place by 10 July. If the debt restructuring is voted down then Eurotunnel is likely to go into insolvency.

A source close to the negotiations described them as "frank and constructive", adding: "The chances of getting an extension have improved slightly but it is still about even."

The two governments are almost certain to exact a price for extending the concession beyond 2052 – probably in the shape of a share in future revenues.

STOCK MARKETS



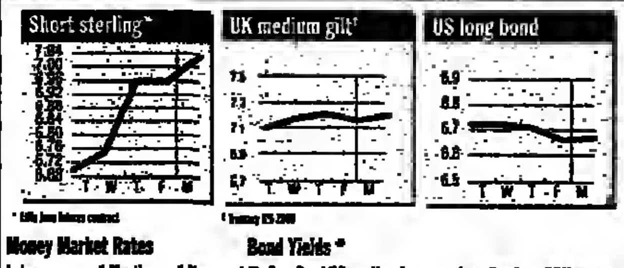
*New Jones graph at 1300 hours   †FT/S&P World Index Yields

Indices

Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	4575.80	-18.10	-0.4	4783.10	4056.60	3.56
FTSE 250	4454.80	-30.20	-0.7	4729.40	4454.80	3.72
FTSE 350	2219.00	-10.10	-0.5	2312.80	2017.90	3.59
FTSE SmallCap	2246.36	-14.73	-0.7	2374.20	2178.29	3.17
FTSE All-Share	2177.79	-10.14	-0.5	2266.11	1989.78	3.56
New York *	7604.26	-192.25	-2.5	7796.51	5032.94	1.65
Tokyo	20436.14	+50.60	+0.2	20681.07	17303.85	0.79†
Hong Kong	15021.23	-133.13	-0.9	15154.36	12055.17	2.83†
Frankfurt	3754.72	-33.55	-0.9	3788.27	2848.77	1.44†

Statistics as of 24 June

INTEREST RATES



* [illegible] † Treasury [illegible]

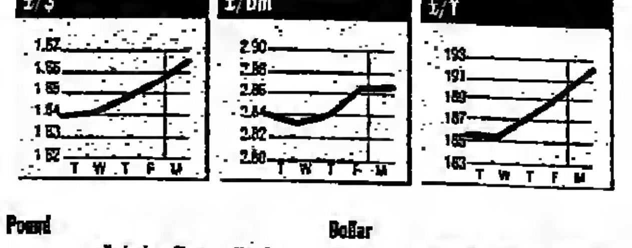
Money Market Rates Index	1 Month	1 Year	Bond Yields * Medium Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond	(%)Year Ago
UK	6.50	7.13	7.17	8.03	7.22	7.09
US	5.63	6.06	6.38	6.94	6.66	6.81
Japan	0.50	0.66	2.39	3.29	-	-
Germany	3.06	3.22	5.71	6.14	6.52	-

*Benchmark Indices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Change (p)	Change%	Falls	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change
Natl Westminster	783.5	37	5.0	Smith(Wh)Gp	376.5	35	8.5
Gen Electric Co	354	15.5	4.6	Gallaher Group	282	18	6
Johnston Press	190.5	7	3.8	Imperial Chem Ind	807.5	41	4 8

CURRENCIES



Pound

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
$ (London)	1.6643	+1.03c	1.5402
$ (N York)	1.6715	+1.55c	1.5380
DM (London)	2.8666	+0 18pf	2.3547
¥ (London)	192 185	+Y2 537	167.861
£ Index	101.5	+0.3	85.9

Dollar

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£ (London)	0 6009	-0 37	0.6493
£ (N York)	0 5983	-0.56	0.6502
DM (London)	1 7224	-0 97pf	1.5289
¥ (London)	115.475	+Y0.815	106 990
$ Index	102 7	-0.1	97 2

OTHER INDICATORS

	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago
Oil Brent $	18.00	+0.31	18.06
Gold $	338.30	-0.15	383.65
Gold £	203.27	-1.36	249.09

Index	Latest	Yr Ago	Next Figs
RPI	156 9+0 38pc	150.9	8 Jul
GDP	109 7+2 6pc	107 0	25 Jul
Base Rates	– 6 50pc	6.75	–

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Decisions like this should not be left to the ITC

COMMENT

'Sky continues to be a leading participant in the new platform even though it has been excluded from ownership. A great chunk of the programming will be supplied by BSkyB under the same sort of terms it already supplies the cable industry'

So the Independent Televisinn Commission has finally gone and done what it was determined to do all along and awarded all three new licences for digital terrestrial televisinn tn British Digital Brnadcasting. As a sop tn the competition authorities, Sky has been ejected from the winning consortium, hut with £75m of "piss off quick" money neatly stashed in its hack pocket it seems to have been more than adequately compensated for playing the bogeyman.

Actually there's a view in the City that £75m rather understates the value of its one-third equity stake in the successful hidder. Snme analysts are already valuing the company. now that it has won the licences, at more than £1hn. Not bad for a franchise whieh carries no Exchequer levy whatsoever. None the less, Granada and Carlton would plainly have been better nff had Sky never been included. Before investing any more in digital terrestrial than the cost of preparing the hid, they now start £75m down.

Nor does everyone share the ITC's view that it has solved the competrion problem by excluding Sky from equity participation. Indeed the ITC seems to be displaying not a little naivety in believing the boil has now been lanced. The point is that Sky continues to be a leading participant in the new platform even though it has been excluded from ownership. A great chunk of the programming will be supplied by BSkyB under the same sort of terms it already supplies the cable industry. In other words it will be ahle to extend Sky movies and sport on tn the new digital platform. Sky will probably also supply the basic subscription technology and management systems.

According to Don Cruickshank, director general of Oftel, this in itself raises substantial competition concerns in the pay TV network and conditional access markets. Even if the rival hidder, Digital Television Network, doesn't mount a legal challenge to the ITC's decisinn, Mr Cruickshank seems tn be laying down a clear marker. What in effect he's saying is that the ITC is not qualified or adequately positioned to deal with these concerns. It's hard to disagree. There's mnre than a hint in this latest decision nf the nld IBA. Stitched-together deals in smoke-filled rooms usually result in unsatisfactory compromise and that's precisely what seems to have happened here.

The need for a full-time economie regulator of this industry – an Ofcom – grows steadily more urgent. That job should go not to the ITC, hut to Mr Cruickshank at Oftel. Leave regulation of content to the ITC by all means, hut the husiness of ensuring and safeguarding adequate competition seems to require a rather more sophisticated and modern approach.

Wrong move by pensions firms

Memo to the financial services industry: if you are planning to write tn Hefen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, be sure to eat some humble pie. This, at least, must be the conclusion from yesterday's "naming and shaming" of Legal & General and the Sedgwick Group, two companies heavily involved in the mis-selling of personal pensions in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Last month, Mrs Liddell wrote tn 24 life insurers and large financial advice firms, of which Sedgwick is nne, asking them tn tell her how they proposed tn clear the hacklog of pensinn cases still waiting to be processed. Almost without exception, the replies not only provided details but added covering letters in which they assured the new Minister nf their determinatinn tn resolve this long-running problem as swiftly as possihle.

In several instances, they also pointed out to Mrs Liddell that there were a number of problems in reinstating pensions mis-selling victims hack into their former occupational schemes. The most significant hold-up appears tn be the slowness with whieh some company schemes are delivering information ahout their former members hack to the insurance industry.

Mrs Liddell seems willing to listen to mitigation of this sort and has promised to take aetion, particularly wilh public sector pension schemes, some of whieh are dragging their feet and have re-admitted harely any fnrmer members. But Legal & General and Sedgwick went further than this. L&G chose to tell the Minister that its board did not believe criticisms of the industry's inaetivity in her letter were justified. Sedgwick suggested that Mrs Liddell had not been properly briefed before her meeting with the industry last month and in relation to her subsequent letter.

Big mistake. Their record may nnt be the worst among the 24 firms summoned tn the Treasury last month. But by failing to show contrition, they've now had themselves "named and shamed". Mrs Liddell is absolutely right to do this, unfair though it might be. As she made clear yesterday, it is an outrage for 18,000 people to have died without being compensated by the industry. Everybody is tired of hearing excuses.

The scandal of 600,000 people still waiting for their cases to be dealt with demands more than the observatinn that Ministers have not been properly hriefed, especially from companies like Sedgwick, which still has tn complete its mailing to all potentially affected elients. The industry would do well to heed the lesson nf yesterday's first "name and shame" exercise, or more companies will face Mrs Liddell's wrath.

High risks as the pound soars

The pound's remarkahle elimh is due to two things: euro troubles and dollar wohhles. It is a simple ehoice for investors. On the one hand, the British economy is belting away and interest rates are hound to rise during the summer. On the nther hand – well, there is no nther hand actually. Single currency turmoil makes the main European currencies unappealing, and the euro itself seems increasingly likely to be a soft currency. Across the Atlantic, the US economy looks just dandy, hut with the next interest rate rise teceding and the risk of Japanese investors pulling out increasing, the risks are greater.

Sterling therefore lnoks to currency markets like an ideal one-way bet. Some analysts are talking about it reaching DM3 before long.

The catch is that the higher the pound climbs, the more overvalued it becomes, and the mnre damage it does to the balance of payments. There is a consequently greater risk of correction. Goldman Sachs yesterday sent clients a circular saying the currency was already 15 per cent overvalued and advised them to sell rather than huy.

Undouhtedly Goldman is right ahout this but as ever timing is all in markets. The correction could come as early as the next rise in base rates, whieh might prompt profit taking. If Wall Street dives because of a Japanese sell-off, sterling would probably drop with the dollar. Or it could be the next re-evaluation of prospects for US interest rates. Who knows, Continental politicians might even get the EMU roadshow back on track.

Whatever the case, most of us will be keeping our fingers crossed that sterling stays at these giddy heights long enough to sustain our Continental holidays.

Pound bounces to five-year high on rates expectations

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

The pound touched its highest level for five years yesterday, driven by the firm expectation that the Bank of England will increase interest rates soon after next week's Budget.

Sterling's exchange rate ended unchanged at just over DM2.87, having climbed above DM2.88 during the day.

Separately, shares bounced higher on both sides of the Atlantic, shrugging off Monday's dramatic dive on Wall Street. The FTSE 100 index ended up nearly 21 points at 4,596.3, and the Dow Jones index was nearly 50 points up at 7,653.57 by late morning.

Some analysts were predicting that the pound might reach DM3 before long. James Barty, UK economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "Everybody is very gung-ho about the prospect for a base rate increase."

Interest rates could rise by half a point as early as the week after the Budget, when the Bank's monetary policy committee next meets, he said.

Yesterday brought a fresh plea to Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to raise taxes next week, and take some of the pressure off interest rates. The Item Club, which forecasts the economy for accountancy firm Ernst & Young, said a tough Budget was necessary to prevent spending spiralling out of control.

Item Club economist John Gaster said: "If consumer spending is running away in the autumn, drastic interest rate increases will be needed."

Other pre-Budget lobbying came from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (Rics), but in this case against possible Budget tax increases. In its latest survey of estate agents it said house prices climbed in the three months to May due to the shortage of property for sale.

According to spokesman Ian Perry: "We expect to see more sellers taking the plunge once the Budget is behind us." But an increase in stamp duty or the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief (Miras) in the Budget would dent the housing market.

An independent expert, Professor David Miles of Imperial College, agreed. "The impact of something like doubling stamp duty would be quite big."

The two alternatives would hit different groups. Abolishing Miras would hurt owners of cheaper homes – mainly in the North - proportionately more, whereas higher stamp duty would hit harder in the South where house prices are higher.

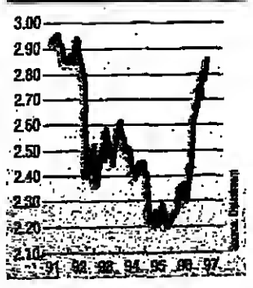
Across the Atlantic, there was new evidence of the US economy's impressive performance with consumer confidence jumping to the highest level since 1969.

Yet investors' fears of both a Japanese sell-off and a Federal Reserve move to raise interest rates receded. Christopher Low, an analyst at HSBC Markets in New York, said subdued inflation meant the Fed was unlikely to have to lift the cost of borrowing before the autumn.

"It's almost too good to be true, but then it has been like this for several years," he said.

Bond and share prices were also boosted when Japan's Finance Minister, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, withdrew his prime minister's warning from the previous day that Japan might sell holdings of US assets.

DM to the £



Designer trinkets add sparkle to Vendôme's results

Vendôme, the luxury goods group which owns the Cartier and Mont Blanc brands, has benefited from increasing spending on designer trinkets. Profits last year exceeded SFr500m for the first time. Though this represents a 9.5 per cent increase on last year, the strength of the pound means the sterling equivalent is a 4 per cent decrease to £241.8m. Lord Douro, deputy chairman (right), pictured with Joseph Kanoui, chairman, said sales of jewellery were 12 per cent higher while jewel-encrusted gold watches were also popular. Sales in the Far East were particularly strong.

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

GEC and BT spur property prices

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

GEC, the electronics and defence giant, has ignited the central London property market with a £2m-plus deal to move from its long-standing Mayfair headquarters building.

The agreement came as British Telecom was said to be close to securing a deal worth up to £2.5m to take over a new building in Berkeley Square to use as the headquarters for Concert after the merger later this year with MCI. Property experts said the two agreements, the first of their kind in the West End of London for at least a year, had already added more than 10 per cent to office rental prices.

The lease on GEC's existing building, in Stanhope Gate, was due to expire in August 1998 and the building's owner, the National Westminster Bank pension fund, is thought likely to redevelop the site. GEC has occupied the offices, in one of London's most expensive districts around the corner from Park Lane, since the 1960s. Its sparsely decorated interior, in marked contrast to most other leading company headquarters, came to symbolise the tough cost control of Lord Weinstock, GEC's long-serving former managing director. GEC's new management, led by George Simpson, is to move to a refurbished office nearby, on the corner of Bond Street.

Property sources suggested GEC had paid more than £45 per square foot for the lease on the 44,000 sq ft building. Keith Williams of Jones Lang Wootton, the commercial property agents handling the deal, said: "It's under offer so terms have been agreed. We expect to complete the legal paperwork in about three months."

BT said it had not yet agreed terms on the Berkeley Square building, one of the largest new developments in the exclusive part of London since the recession, and denied suggestions that it was paying in excess of £50 per sq ft for 48,000 square feet of office space. On top of the annual rental fee of up to £2.5m, experts predicted BT could spend as much as £5m fitting the building out.

The move to Berkeley square for a handful of senior Concert staff represents a victory fnr Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, over MCI executives who had wanted a location closer to Heathrow Airpurt. Most BT employees will stay at the existing headquarters for the UK operations near St Paul's Cathedral.

First Leisure directors ousted after warning

Andrew Yates

Michael Grade, the former head of Channel 4, yesterday announced a big management shake up at First Leisure less than a month after taking up his new joh as executive ehairman at the leisure group.

The news also accompanied a shock warning that its hingo divisinn was expected tu make a loss of £2.6m in the current financial year. It announced yesterday that the division had slumped £1.3m into the red in the six months to April.

Nick Tamblyn, the director responsible for First Leisure's hingo husiness and four other top bingo executives have gone in the management cull.

The restructuring of the bingo division will cost £2.4m, ineluding pay-offs for Mr Tamblyn as well as for John Conlan, fnrmer group ehief executive who left last month, which have yet to he disclosed.

Mike Payne, a director, will be in ehange of all of nperating divisions. "We needed to make some ehanges. I have cleared the lines of command. But the business still needs an awful lot of fine-tuning," said Mr Grade.

Investment column and People & Business, page 22

IN BRIEF

Windfalls draw record society complaints

Thousands of people protesting at being excluded from their building society's windfall payouts took the number nf complaints received by the Building Societies' Ombudsman to a record level in the year to March. The total number of complaints was up 13 per cent to nearly 15,000, more than 4,000 of which were from customers disgruntled about windfalls, according to the annual report from the Ombudsman. However, only 10 per cent of the windfall complaints fell within the ombudsman's jurisdiction, because he cannot currently rule on complaints relating to membership rights of societies, and so far he has not ruled in favour of an individual in any windfall dispute. Complaints about mortgages fell for the first time last year, although the number of dispules about home loans that required fuller investigation and arbitration increased.

LVMH bags £10m more Grand Met shares

LVMH, the luxury goods company run by combative Frenehman Bernard Arnault, has paid more than £10m for another 1.75 million shares in Grand Metropolitan as part of a concerted campaign to scupper its planned £24bn merger with Guinness. The French group paid more than £800m for a 6.37 per cent stake in the British food and drinks giant. Mr Arnault wants GrandMet and Guinness lo adopt his proposals to merge their drinks divisions with LVMH's drinks subsidiary Moët Hennessy. It is understood he will continue to buy shares, probably taking his holding beyond 10 per cent, but it is thought unlikely that he will requisition an extraordinary general meeting to consider his proposals even though he would be entitled to do so with a 10 per cent holding. He needs 25 per cent of GrandMet's shares to block the merger outright.

Computer firm pays £300m to outsource

Computer company Digital Equipment Corporation has signed a £300m, eight-year deal with EDS under which it will outsource the customer administration arm of one of its biggest units. Under the arrangement, which will be managed from the US-based outsourcing specialist's London office, 800 Digital employees will transfer to EDS. Digital said the deal was "a bold step" designed to make it easier for customers to do business.

Telewest denies CWC takeover talks

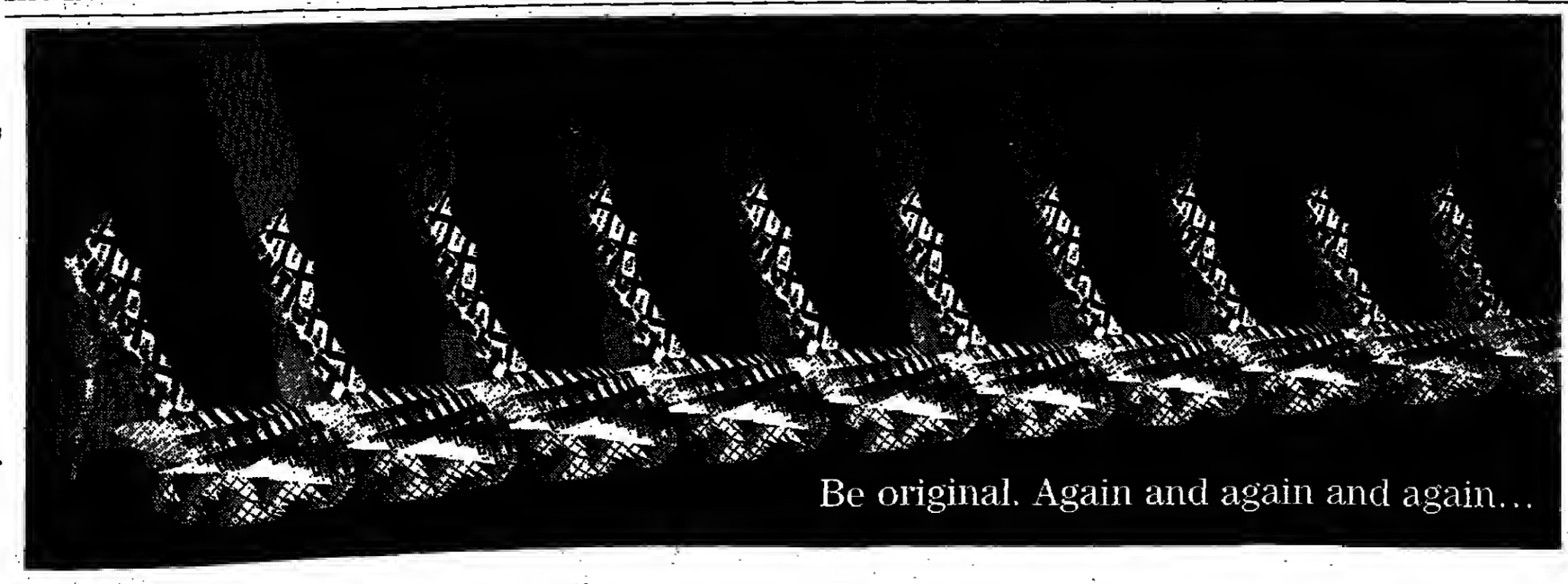
Telewest Communications "emphatically denied" it was in takeover talks with Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC) following a press report, though the group declined to rule out the possibility of a merger at some stage in the future. A Telewest spokesman said: "It would be foolish for anyone to rule out a merger but we are not in discussions with CWC about it." Telewest's shareholders, US West, SBC and Cox Communications, also announced an undertaking not to sell their stakes for 12 months. Telewest shares rose 5p to 99p, while CWC's shares were 10.5p higher at 319.5p.

Oftel confirms ban on BT 'win-back' deals

Oftel, the telephone's watchdog, has made a final order hanning British Telecom from offering special deals to win back customers who deserted to the cable companies. Yesterday's ruling confirms a preliminary decision by Oftel to stop the campaign on the grounds that it unfairly targeted other companies' customers. Don Cruickshank, the regulator, said the "win-back" reconnection offer involved two breaches of BT's licence: it had been offered at less than the cost of providing the service and discriminated between different classes of customer.

Majestic Wine profits up a heady 60%

Majestic Wine, the UK's largest wine warehouse chain, announced a 60 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.98m for the year to March in its first results since floating on the Alternative Investment Market last November. The figures came on the back of strong demand for fine wines and champagne, with Chilean and New Zealand wines proving notably popular. Chief executive Tim How plans to double the size of its 65-strong wine chain to create a national presence by opening around 10 warehouses a year. He is seeking new sites in places such as Newcastle, York and Cardiff to expand Majestic from its heartland in the South of England.



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SmithKline halts trials in arthritis drug setback

Sameena Ahmad

SmithKline Beecham said yesterday that late-stage trials of a significant new drug to treat rheumatoid arthritis had to be stopped because of a potentially dangerous effect on the immune system of patients.

Analysts said news of the drug's suspension was a setback as it was one of the group's 10 blockbuster drugs due to be released before the year 2000, with potential peak sales of around £300m. Shares in the group fell 19p to £10.48.

Glaxo Wellcome, which is developing a similar class of drug – known as an anti CD4 monoclonal antibody – in for arthritis gained 6p to £12.52.

Several drug companies are competing fiercely for a share of the multi-billion-dollar anti-arthritis market, where there is currently no effective treatment.

The phase-three trial results showed that 35 of the 103 patients completing the first month of treatment had reduced CD4 cell counts – indicating a weaker immune system – compared with just 10 of the larger phase-two trial.

Mark Brewer from Hoare Govett said: "This could be quite significant. SmithKline has been talking very positively about this drug. We expected it to make around £20m in 2000 and £300m in 2003. Anti-inflammatory and tissue repair is one of SmithKline's key research areas."

Kevin Scotcher from NatWest said that the potential side effects from the drug were quite serious. "By making the immune system weaker, the drug creates an artificial HIV situation. This drug seems to work, but the side-effects may far outweigh the benefits."

However analysts said they were not changing their views on the stock. Mr Brewer said: "This is a good company with plenty in the pipeline if this one doesn't work."

James Culverwell, analyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "It's disappointing but pretty irrelevant for earnings. This was one of 10 potential blockbuster drugs due for release before 2000, including a follow-up close behind which might have a better profile."

A spokeswoman for SmithKline pointed out that no patients showed side effects. She said the company was examining the possibility that the problems were due to simple manufacturing and increased dosages associated with scaling up the amount of product needed for larger scale clinical trials.

"This drug is only on hold. We have not stopped development and we will be reviewing our manufacturing and dosing procedures."

Media buyer heads north

Cathy Newman

The Media Business, the smallest of the specialist media buyers listed on the stock market, is to set up an office in Scotland with the aim of taking advantage of business opportunities it believes will arise if the referendum in September decides in favour of a devolved Scottish parliament.

While the company declined to comment on the plans, sources said yesterday that it had signed a lease on buildings in the Leith area of Edinburgh – traditionally a stronghold for Scotland's advertising industry – and was on the point of hiring senior staff to run the operation.

Industry observers expect Media Business's move to be followed by a rush of media companies opening up offices in Scotland in the next few months. There are only two media buying companies, Faulds Advertising and Feather Brooksbank, serving the whole of Scotland and advertisers are clamouring for more choice.

Apart from having several Scottish clients, which include Royal Bank of Scotland and Scotsman Publications, management at Media Business believes the Scottish market is ripe for exploitation.

Those beliefs are shared by other media groups. Bert Hardy, chief executive of European Press Holdings, said: "After devolution, advertisers will begin to focus more on Scotland as a marketing area, paying more attention to the Scottish consumer as an entity."

Scotland has recently scored several notable successes in attracting big businesses, which may also persuade advertising agencies to make the move north.

It is also understood that Edinburgh's old GPO building is being earmarked for the creation of a vast media centre to house journalists covering parliamentary matters in Scotland.

Halma pays for neglecting investors

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Halma appeared to walk on water in the first 22 years after its chairman, David Barber, arrived at the engineering group in the early 1970s. The City was understandably mesmerised by a formula that has produced a probably unequalled record of 24 per cent a year compound earnings growth since 1973. But Halma appears to have succumbed to the hubris that eventually seems to afflict all such success stories. Yesterday the group announced its third profits disappointment in as many years, sending the shares slithering 27.5p to 162.5p, taking their underperformance against the rest of the market to 30 per cent over three years.

The immediate cause of the savage share price reaction was news of a 10 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £37.1m in the year to March, with earnings growth trailing along at 9 per cent. Respectable enough for most companies, that sort of rise is pedestrian in the context of a group which has traditionally been accorded a premium rating for double-digit growth.

The problems stemmed from two of the largest of Halma's 48 subsidiaries. Apollo, the world's third-largest maker of fire detectors, and Memco, the leading global maker of sensors for lift doors, together account for a fifth of group turnover. With exports accounting for over half their output, the strong pound hit profits hard.

More serious was the revelation that Memco's difficulties with a component supplier which emerged the previous year had not been sorted out. Coming on top of pricing pressures and a strike at large US customers, profits there were hammered. Overall the downturn at the two subsidiaries came to around £2.5m last year.

But the real problem is that, like so many successful companies, Halma started to neglect its investors while things were going well and is reaping the City's wrath at the first signs of a stumble. The Barber philosophy remains intact. The acquisition of small companies which lead niche markets and are then made to sweat by highly financially motivated management will continue to deliver the goods. Last year, a £21m outlay on acquisitions delivered £3.28m of additional profits.

But the City will no longer take that on trust, even with the recent appointment of Lord McGowan, chairman of stockbrokers Panmure Gordon, as a non-executive director. Profit forecasts trimmed to around £43m this year would put the shares on a forward p/e of 15. That could be a buying opportunity, with a one-for-three scrip issue in prospect to increase liquidity.

No quick fix for First Leisure

Michael Grade has wasted no time in making his presence felt at the head of First Leisure, the bingo to nightclub business founded by his uncle, Lord Delfont. Heads have already begun to roll since he was appointed executive chairman last month. The top four executives at its ailing bingo business have been given their marching orders. Nick Tamblyn, the board member responsible for the bingo division, is also on his way out.

This management upheaval, together with the undisclosed pay-off for former chief executive John Conlan, who resigned earlier this year to make way for Mr Grade, is likely to cost First Leisure £2.4m.

Mr Grade's reforms have not come a moment too soon. First Leisure has clearly lost its way in recent years. Pre-tax profits for the half-year to April fell to £17.2m from £18.1m before. The main culprit was the bingo division, which made a loss of £1.3m. Like-for-like sales at the Ritz and Riva bingo hall chains have slumped an alarming 25 per cent.

Mr Grade hopes that the new bingo management, poached from Rank, will be able to turn the business around by paying out more money in prizes, improving the facilities on offer and splashing out more on marketing. But there is no quick fix. The business will probably lose another £1.3m in the second half.

Elsewhere, prospects for the health club operation look encouraging, even if last month it bought the upmarket Riverside health and fitness chain for what looks a full price of £61m. Mr Grade plans to roll out further clubs around the country over the next few years.

First Leisure's other divisions, including nightclubs, bars and leisure attractions such as the Blackpool Tower, are showing steady but hardly spectacular growth. BZW forecasts full-year profits of £42.6m, putting the shares, down 21p to 315p, on a prospective multiple of 17. Mr Grade will need all his showbiz flair to turn First Leisure into a go-go leisure stock. Until he can demonstrate some real progress, the shares look high enough.

Alba looks in better shape

John Harris, the chairman of Alba, is sounding upbeat despite a difficult year. Alba's speciality is selling cheap, well-known electrical brands like Bush. Alba, Goodmans and Hinari. With rival Amstrad increasingly shifting from televisions and videos to mail-order computers and telephones, Alba's main competition at the cheaper end of the high street is now lesser-known Korean brands.

The group is also proving increasingly attractive to retailers: Argos represents around a fifth of sales and its televisions and videos are making increasing inroads into supermarkets like Asda and Sainsbury's Savacentre.

One reason for Alba's success is its product offering, including a huge range of around 1,500 items. Bush televisions – in new wide-screen formats and fashionable acid colours – and hand-held "Dirt Devil" vacuum cleaners have proved popular.

Markets are still far from easy. Economic recession in France was to blame for the fall in profits from £10.4m to £9.8m in the year to March and consumers in the UK are still apparently reluctant to part with their building society windfalls.

There is also the uncertainty over the effect of Labour's first Budget next week on consumer confidence. The test will be the all-important second half, which includes the key Christmas trading season.

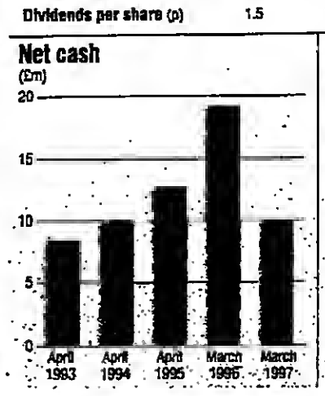
Even so, Alba already looks in better shape. It has has cut back its French business to around 3 per cent of sales from 10 per cent before and has closed a clutch of warehouses in the UK.

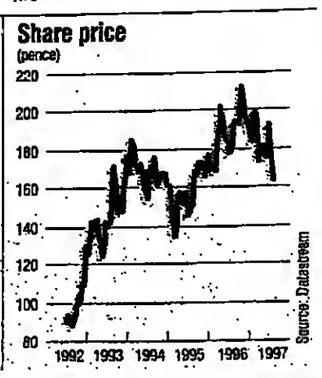
There is also plenty of potential to improve the recent Roadstar acquisition, which adds new products in audio in-car entertainment, and create a single European distribution and warehousing hub. On 182.5p, up 4.5p, the group's shares are on a forward p/e ratio of 11. About right.

Halma: At a glance

Market value: £438m, share price 162.5p

Five-year record	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Turnover (£m)	118	135	154	174	200
Pre-tax profits (£m)	20.9	25.1	29.2	33.6	37.1
Earnings per share (p)	5.59	6.39	7.45	8.58	9.35
Dividends per share (p)	1.5	1.78	2.14	2.56	3.08





There's no room for yesterday's men on the CBI platform

Stephen Norris: Nearest thing to a Tory at the CBI

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Stalin's propaganda people used to airbrush away the images of disgraced politicians from official photographs. The CBI seems to be taking a similar attitude to the recently deposed government, by not inviting a single Tory politician to its annual conference this November.

How fickle is fate. Just last year Michael Heseltine tossed his blonde locks at the Birmingham hunfight, while Michael Portillo and Chris Patten helped put the Government's case to businessmen.

This year the CBI's political guests include **John Prescott**, the Deputy Prime Minister, **Margaret Beckett**, President of the Board of Trade, **David Blunkett**, Employment Secretary, and **Paddy Ashdown**, leader of the Liberal Democrats. The closest the CBI gets to a Tory is **Stephen Norris**, who retired as a minister before the election. The hot-blooded Mr Norris will be speaking solely in his capacity as director general of the Road Haulage Association.

The tobacco industry may be having a bad time in the US courts, but it can still rely on First Leisure. **Michael Grade**, the newly installed executive chairman, kept the company's traditions intact yesterday by lighting up a huge log of a cigar during the results press conference, severely reducing visibility.

The former chairman **Lord Rayne** was also a big cigar smoker, as was outgoing chief executive **John Conlon**. Which brings us, dear reader, to the subject of **Graham Coles**, finance director of First Leisure, and his "secret" smoking habit.

Mr Coles was happy to light up as well yesterday, albeit with a slightly less Zeppelin-sized cigar. This despite the steadfast opposition of his wife, who sternly disapproves of smoking. Is chomping on a cigar written into First Leisure employment contracts?

I wonder what partners in the City law firm Allen & Overy will make of an article by their colleague **Gordon Stewart** in the latest issue of *Insolvency Practitioner*, the quarterly mag for receivers.

In the article, titled "Sugar & spice", the former president of the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency tells how he became so worried at his children's intake of sugar-rich Ricicles at breakfast time that he took to hiding the packet from them.

"It is not easy to describe the chaos that swiftly ensued," writes the affable Mr Stewart. "First, outraged children staged a sit-down protest and refused to eat any cereal until the Ricicles were restored to their place in the breakfast cupboard and indeed a search party was formed to go round the house – including venturing into the Holy of Holies, Daddy's study – to try to locate the missing Ricicles."

"The collapse of parental authority was swift and dramatic," Mr Stewart writes. The Ricicles had to be restored.

What this has to do with Mr Stewart's views on insolvency law I have no idea, but it certainly provides light relief from his other, longer article in the same issue, headed: "What does section 426 actually mean?" I often find myself asking the same question.

Congratulations to **Michael Hart**, chairman of Foreign & Colonial Management, who is to become the new director general of the Association of Investment Trust Companies. Mr Hart is a heavyweight figure in the industry who is about to retire from Foreign and Colonial, where he has worked since 1954. From January next year he will replace the present incumbent, **Ernest Fenton**, who has spent four and a half years in the role.

Mr Fenton is retiring to devote all his energies to his large farm in Tunbridge Wells, which produces top quality beef.

Born in Scotland, Mr Fenton has recently sold most of his Scottish interests in order to concentrate on the farm. He is also helping to organise a "phantom pheasant shoot" with gun makers Holland & Holland in aid of cancer charities this November, during which City bods will be invited to blast away at clay pigeons.

John Willcock

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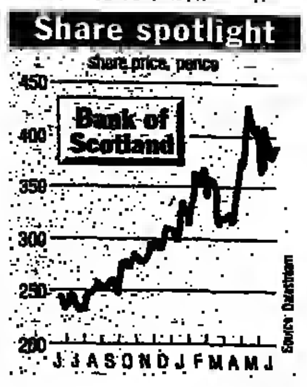
market report / shares

Data Bank

FTSE 100
4596.3 + 20.5
FTSE 250
4447.3 - 7.5
FTSE 350
2226.3 + 7.3
SEAQ VOLUME
883.6m shares,
49,711 bargains
Gilts Index
N/A

Share spotlight



Takeover fever among banks ends six-day losing streak

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

Shares ended six days on the run as takeover fever once again gripped the banks.

National Westminster Bank remained to the fore, leading the blue chip leader board with a 41.5p gain to 825p, just below the peak hit earlier this year.

With its trading difficulties and shareholder unrest NatWest is seen as an obvious takeover target with Barclays and HSBC, owner of Midland, regarded as the most likely predators.

SBC Warburg helped keep the banking pot on the boil by hanging a buy sign over NatWest and underlining the savings a merger could bring. It suggested the shares could have a 200p upside.

HSBC, the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, is thought to be anxious to mount a take over strike and is believed to have examined a number of financial groups.

Royal Bank of Scotland, up 15p at 598p, is reported to have attracted HSBC interest; so is **Standard Chartered**, up 38.5p to 912.5p.

Others caught in the banking excitement included **Bank of Scotland**, 7p to 385p and even **Halifax**, 11p to 760.5p. **HSBC** improved by 33.5p to 1,862p.

However, the next financial deal could be a relatively modest £200m affair.

Cater Allen, the securities group, jumped 15p to 557.5p in late trading with one deal going through at 563p.

The activity could indicate that the Abbey National bid – the two have admitted they are in talks – has been agreed and is about to be announced. The offer should be more than 600p a share.

The increasingly powerful presence financial shares have established in Footsie helped the blue chip index shrug off the worst New York decline since the 1987 crash. It was rattled in early trading, off 37.5, but persistent, if highly selective, buying prompted a recovery and by the close Footsie was up 20.5 at 4,596.3.

New York's crash stemmed from fears Japan intended to raid its stockpile of US bonds. But a government statement denied any such plan.

There was relief in the stock market that the latest run of reverses lasted only six days. Still, such retreats do not even enjoy a rarity value. One occurred at the start of this month.

Footsie often stages a sharp rally after suffering the six-day punishment and earlier this month it went on to find its way to new peaks.

It would, however, be surprising if Footsie enjoyed a rampant run this time. The uncertainty surrounding Gordon Brown's Budget is likely to restrain interest and it would be surprising if much of the 200 points stripped from the Footsie calculation in the latest six-on-the-trot retreat is made up, at least until the dust settles on the Brown measures.

Grand Metropolitan slipped 3p to 585.5p as LVMH continued to buy, nudging its stake to 6.37 per cent.

WH Smith again suffered from Bill Cockburn's departure, falling a further 9p to 367.5p.

Carlton Communications and **Granada** scored from the British Digital Broadcasting success. But poor old **BSkyB** suffered a double whammy. Not only was it excluded from the BDB deal it also faced reports Premiership football clubs might develop their own television operations. Carlton rose 8.5p to 525p, Granada 19.5p to 854.5p and BSkyB fell 19.5p to 467.5p.

Reports **Cable & Wireless Communications** planned a deal with **Telewest Communications** stirred the respective shares. CWC rose 10p to 319.5p and Telewest 5p to 99p. **Cable & Wireless** jumped 26.5p to 585.5p in busy trading. There was vague talk of further developments in its relationship with Hong Kong Telecom.

Engineer **BBA** rose 7.5p to 357.5p ahead of a rumoured analysts' visit to its US operations. **Johnson Matthey**, with a similar event in mind, was a shade easier at 532p.

Airtours jumped 42p to 1,140.5p on holiday bookings and perennial takeover hopes and **Brockbank**, an insurance broker, climbed 130p to 672.5p as Bermudan re-insurer Mid Ocean bid 696p a share for the 49 per cent not owned.

John Lusty, the food group, returned to market at 9.5p against an 8.5p suspension.

More profit warnings appeared. **Vero**, involved in mobile telephone transmitters, fell 22p to 99.5p; **Frederick Cooper**, an engineer, lost 1.5p to 23.5p.

Floral Street, a design and graphics group, fell 35p to 212.5p from its suspension price. Trading was halted while talks were held with two advertising agencies which planned to reverse into Floral Street. But finance for the deal could not be raised.

Taking Stock

❑ *Harrisons & Crosfield*, the chemical to timber group, has drifted after last month's excitement over its demerger plans. But the shares rose 2.5p to 112.5p as *NatWest Securities* said the group should now be on course for reshaping.

A "demerger should unlock modest value" and end the group's underperformance. Analyst David Allchurch's sum-of-the-parts calculation gives a value of 132p a share.

❑ Zicor Mining should be scoring from the firm zinc price. Its Van Stone mine in the US could, on a zinc valuation, be worth more than the £2.2m capitalisation of the company and may be reopened.

Zicor has a poor AIM record since it raised £850,000 at 18p and arrived in February; the shares are bumping along at a 9.5p low.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.
Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market s Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. ‡ AIM Stock Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0891 123 335, and when prompted to do, so enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FTSE 100 - Real-time	00	Sterling Rates	04	Privatisation Issues	36
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Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 0171 873 4378 (9.00am - 5.00pm).

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000
Norwich Union	2780000	NatWest Bank	1940000	BTR	1050000	BG	7700[illegible]
Lloyds TSB	1990000	Grand Met	1220000	Centrica	1030000	Rolls Royce	7700[illegible]
BSkyB	1840000	BP	1160000	Burton	900000	Pilkington	7200[illegible]
BT	1360000	Halifax	1140000	Bank of Scotland	860000	Storehouse	7200[illegible]
ICI	1270000	Cable & Wire	1120000	BAT Inds	850000	Abbey National	6800[illegible]

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 4538.3 down 37.5	11.00 4573.6 down 2.2	14.00 4591.4 up 15.6
09.00 4549.8 down 26.0	12.00 4581.4 up 5.6	15.00 4595.8 up 20.0
10.00 4569.0 down 6.8	13.00 4588.7 up 12.9	16.00 4592.2 up 16.4
		Close 4599.3 up 20.5

[illegible]

Government Securities

[illegible]

Rights Issues

Stock	Price	Chg
Benchmark Group	20pm	
Century Inns	11pm	
Millwall Hldgs	4pm	-½
Waterfall Hldgs	6pm	-1

Recent Issues

Stock	Price	Chg
Aston Villa	[illegible]	+40
Camden B	85	-7½
Gallaher	284	+2
Heart of Midlothian	100½	-1
Highland Timber	124½	
Integrated As Mngmt	125	
Longbridge Intl	107½	
Norwich Union	326	-½
Powderject Pharms	395½	-1
Reabourne Merlin Life	40	+1
Rowallan Group	209	
SBS Group	160½	-1
Topps Tiles	112½	
Vossalia Group	3½	

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[illegible]

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UNIT TRUST GUIDE

d	ex dividend
e	exit charge applies when units are sold
buy	formerly 'offer'
sell	formerly 'bid'
x	Non SIB recognised funds

Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	DOLLAR Spot	1 month	3 months	D-MARK Spot
US	1.6660	14-12	42-39	1.000	-	-	0.5801
Canada	2.3173	69-68	203-197	1.3910	32-31	89-88	0.8066
Germany	2.8721	84-83	261-255	1.7240	39-38	117-116	1.0000
France	9.6871	266-257	825-799	5.8206	118-113	359-348	3.3763
Italy	2806.6	0-2	4-2	1684.7	17.4-17.9	48.5-49.0	977.204
Japan	191.34	99-97	295-281	114.85	52-51	152-151	66.6203
ECU	1.4668	30-29	96-92	1.1356	14-15	46-47	0.5107
Belgium	59.253	16.9-18.5	52.0-50.1	35.566	7.8-7.4	22.9-22.4	20.6305
Denmark	10.939	277-269	865-829	6.5659	119-115	385-355	3.8086
Netherlands	3.2321	95-93	289-281	1.9401	43-42	128-127	1.1254
Ireland	1.0999	4-3	18-12	1.5147	8-7	18-16	0.3830
Norway	12.068	331-322	1013-958	7.2434	147-142	439-418	4.2016
Spain	242.52	28.4-24.5	96.2-89.3	145.57	5-4	23-21	84.4398
Sweden	12.854	249-238	787-748	7.7158	93-88	289-279	4.4755
Switzerland	2.3947	106-105	320-315	1.4374	54-53	161-158	0.8339
Australia*	2.2174	9-3	30-20	1.3309	5-1	8-7	0.7720
Hong Kong	12.902	18-2	109-46	7.7445	5-6	13-15	4.4923
Malaysia	4.1992	34-51	102-143	2.5205	40-50	125-145	1.4620
New Zealand*	2.4359	2-5	2-14	1.4621	7-9	31-33	0.8481
Saudi Arabia	6.2489	37-33	129-110	3.7508	6-8	15-19	2.1757
Singapore	2.3816	49-44	153-141	1.4295	19-16	58-53	0.8292

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6662	0.9999	Nigeria	141.977	85.2000
Austria	20.2108	12.1314	Oman	0.6415	0.3850
Brazil	1.7942	1.0767	Pakistan	67.2386	40.3496
China	13.8168	8.2914	Philippines	43.9930	26.4000
Egypt	5.6645	3.4009	Portugal	290.101	174.130
Finland	8.6135	5.1669	Qatar	6.0641	3.6408
Ghana	3549.43	2130.00	Russia	9606.80	5765.00
Greece	453.461	272.120	South Africa	7.5030	4.5025
India	59.6678	35.8150	Taiwan	45.4926	27.9000
Kuwait	0.5043	0.3026	UAE	6.1207	3.6730

Note: Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount (subtract from spot rate), those quoted low to high are at a premium (add to spot rate). *Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0897 123 3033. Calls cost 50p per minute (daily rate) 45p other times.

Tourist Rates

£ Buys		£ Buys		£ Buys	
Australia(Dollars)	2.1320	France(Francs)	9.3000	New Zealand(Dollars)	2.3125
Austria(Schillings)	19.4300	Germany(Marks)	2.7800	Norway(Kroner)	11.6550
Belgium(Francs)	57.0000	Greece(Drachmae)	438.1600	Portugal(Escudos)	277.7500
Canada(Dollars)	2.2200	Hong Kong(Dollars)	12.4000	Spain(Pesetas)	231.5000
Cyprus(Pounds)	0.8150	Ireland(Punts)	1.0550	Sweden(Kronor)	12.4500
Denmark(Kroner)	10.5950	Italy(Lira)	2726.0000	Switzerland(Francs)	2.3070
Holland(Guilders)	3.0950	Japan(Yen)	185.2000	Turkey(Lira)	232110.0000
Finland(Marks)	8.3500	Malta(Lira)	0.6165	United States(Dollars)	1.6030

Interest Rates

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	6.50%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.50%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.10%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.50%	Discount	2.50%
Italy		Prime	4.75%	Spain		Central	3.00%
Discount	6.75%	Discount	2.98%	10-Day Repo	5.25%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.00%
Advances	2.80%	Discount	3.25%	Repo (Avg)	4.10%	Lombard	na %

Bond Yields

Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %
UK	7.0%	7.00	7.25%	7.12	Netherlands	8.25%	4.60	5.75%	5.59
US	6.63%	6.27	6.25%	6.38	Spain	7.90%	5.47	7.35%	6.39
Japan	5.50%	1.57	2.90%	2.52	Italy	6.25%	5.33	0.75%	6.98
Australia	10.0%	6.44	6.75%	8.93	Belgium	9.0%	4.74	6.25%	5.80
Germany	8.0%	4.76	8.0%	5.73	Sweden	13.0%	5.59	6.50%	6.71
France	4.75%	4.62	5.50%	5.63	ECU OAT	6.0%	4.71	5.50%	6.07

Source: HSBC Markets Research. Yields calculated on local basis. ** Denotes new benchmark

Money Market Rates

	O'Night		7 Day		1 Month		3 Months		6 Months		1 Year	
Interbank	5 3/4	7 1/8	6 1/8	6 3/4	6 7/16	6 5/16	6 3/4	6 5/8	6 7/8	7	7 3/16	7 1/16
Sterling CDs	-		-		6 17/32		6 25/32		6 15/16		6 7/8	
Local Authority Deps	6 1/4		6 1/4		6 1/2		6 7/16		6 27/32		6 31/32	
Discount Market Deps	6 5/8		6 1/16		-		-		-		-	
Treasury Bills (Buy)	-		-		6 1/32		6 5/16		-		-	
Dollar CDs	-		-		5.46		5.59		5.70		5.98	
ECU Linked Dep	-	-	-	-	4 1/8	4	4 3/8	4 1/16	4 1/4	4 1/8	4 11/32	4 7/32

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement price	High/Low for day		EstConts traded	Open interest
Long Gilt	(Jun 97)	113-30	113-25	113-10	149	1002
German Gvt Bd	(Sep 97)	101.64	101.73	101.10	213153	243223
Italian Bond	(Sep 97)	134.00	134.22	133.17	84827	91751
Japan Gvt Bd	(Sep 97)	124.53	124.54	124.34	2772	n/a
3 Mth Sterling	(Sep 97)	92.96	92.96	92.92	22235	131867
	(Dec 97)	92.76	92.77	92.71	38680	106802
3 Mth Euromark	(Sep 97)	96.83	96.83	96.81	12871	275193
	(Dec 97)	96.72	96.73	96.70	18321	269438
3 Mth Eurolira	(Sep 97)	93.50	93.53	93.47	31958	119337
	(Dec 97)	93.91	93.92	93.84	20996	71411
3 Mth Euroyen	(Dec 97)	99.15	99.15	99.15	500	n/a
3 Mth Euroswiss	(Sep 97)	98.53	98.59	98.52	9512	73008
	(Dec 97)	98.37	98.41	98.36	4199	42900
3 Mth ECU	(Sep 97)	95.82	95.34	95.80	992	8737
	(Dec 97)	95.76	95.80	95.76	243	6092
FTSE 100	(Sep 97)	4628.0	4632.0	4545.0	13788	63614
FTSE 250	(Sep 97)	4518.0	4518.0	4518.0	76	7108

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option as at 23/6/97

Settlement price: 4594	closing offer price				Call/Put
Series	4500	4550	4600	4650	Total/vols
Jul	161/48	125/63	96/84	70/108	-
Aug	187/77	157/97	126/117	100/141	-
Sep	224/95	193/115	162/136	135/160	-
Oct	226/133	223/132	192/152	163/179	110/161

Commodities

INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange

$/tonne	Cash	3 mths	Volume	LME Stocks	chg
Alumin HG	1561.5-62.5	1585-86	113816	683275	2300
Alumin Alloy	1435-40	1446-88	1156	59780	100
Copper A	2625.5-27.5	2496-97	42069	122250	+475
Lead	605.5-6	620-1	5840	115950	+300
Nickel	7055-65	7170-80	28274	52572	68
Tin	5550-8	5610-15	4866	11595	100
Zinc	1386-87	1403-04	17734	423750	275

Settlement Conversion exchange rates: £/$ 1.6697; $/Dm 1.7243; $/¥ 114.60. Stock volumes & change in tonnes as at Tue 24 June

PRECIOUS METALS

pm fix /oz	$	£	Coins	$	£		$	£
Platinum	414.00	248.05	Britannia	361	217	Krugrands	338/353	203/212
Palladium	194.50	116.55	Britannia.5 oz	188	113	Sovs	80/90	48/54
Silver spot	4.80	2.875	Britannia.25 oz	92	55	Nobles	418/434	251/261
Gold Bu'n	338.35	202.96	Britannia.10 oz	42	25	Maple Leaf	345/361	207/217

Source: Spink & Son

AGRICULTURAL as at 23/6/97

Cocoa LIFFE	£/tonn	Coffee LIFFE	$/tonne	Barley LIFFE	£/tonne	Potatoes LIFFE	£/tonne	Potatoes ATA	Gld/100kg
Jul	1115	Jul	1823	Sep	80.00	Jun	35.00	Vol	-
Sep	1130	Sep	1845	Nov	83.00	Nov	80.00	Jun	11.00
Dec	1130	Nov	1830	Jan	85.00	Mar	64.00	Apr	16.50
Vol	11047	Vol	2697	Vol	23	Vol	107	Vol	457

White Sugar LIFFE	$/tonne	Freight LIFFE	$10/index pt	Wheat LIFFE	£/tonne	Corn CBOT#	Cents/bushel	
							Hi-Lo	Sett
Aug	319.10	Jun	1270	Jul	77.50			
Oct	314.50	Jul	1160	Sep	83.25	Jul	254.50-259.50	260.25
Dec	312.20	Vol	49	Nov	86.25	Sep	248.50-243.75	244.50
Vol	3058	Index	1280	Vol	441	Dec	243.50-241.75	243.00

1230 Prices. Source: CMS

Other Softs (Agricultural)

May	Maize (No.3)**	$/tonne	109.00	Jul	Soya Oil§	Fl./100kg	107.00
Jun	Copra (†)	$/tonne	118.00	Jun	Coconut Oil (†)	$/tonne	652.50
Jul	Cotton (NY)	UScent/lb	72.64	unq	Sunflower Oils	$/tonne	unq
unq	Wool	Acent/kg	unq	Aug	Rapeseed Oil§	Fl./100kg	108.00
Jun	Rubber*	Mcent/kg	274.50	unq	Groundnut Oil	$/tonne	unq

Origin: $Dutch/EC - any origin - †Philippines/Indonesia *Malaysia **N Europe Source: FT Information/Reuters

ENERGY

Brent Crude IPE	5.30pm	*chg	Yr ago	Gasoil IPE ($/tonne)	close	*chg	WTI	Products †	Spot CIF North West Europe ($/tonne)	
Aug	17.82	+0.01		Jul	160.25	+0.00	Aug 19.00	Prem.Unleaded		188/190
Sep	18.02	+0.04		Aug	162.25	+0.25	Sep 19.15	Naphtha		173/176
Oct	18.16	+0.04		Sep	164.50	+0.25	Oct 19.25	EC Gasoil		161/162
Vol 22917		Index 17.95		Vol	8729		Nov 19.30	Fuel Oil		80/83

*since 0.30pm previous day. Year ago prices show average for week. Source: ICIS-London Oil Reports †6pm prices

COMMODITY INDICES

*GSCI Indices	Base date	+Spot	%Day Chg	Dec 31st	%Yrtodrchg	Year ago	% Yr chg
Index	1970=100	184.19	+0.31	215.26	-14.43	200.97	-8.36
Agricultural	1970=100	227.25	-0.80	231.23	-1.72	282.34	-19.51
Energy	1983=100	65.58	+0.82	85.86	-23.62	70.89	-7.63
Industl Metals	1977=100	186.49	-0.41	169.79	+10.49	164.79	+13.17
Livestock	1970=100	189.37	+0.53	191.08	-0.87	185.42	+2.18
Precious Metals	1973=100	436.21	+0.64	463.54	-5.89	487.48	-10.51

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. *GSCI is a trademark and servicemark of Goldman, Sachs & Co. †Close as of 23 June 1997

100 Largest Insurance Funds

Stock	Bid	Mid	Offer
Abbey Equity Ser 4	292.0		307.4
Abbey International Ser 4	235.0		247.4
Abbey Managed Ser 4	839.4		883.6
Abbey National Managed	153.4		161.5
Abbey National UK Equity	164.3		173.0
Albany Equity Acc Ser 3	2074.3		2183.4
Albany Multiple Inv Acc S3	1305.7		1373.7
Allied Dunbar Distribution Bond	26.60		27.00
Allied Dunbar Equity Acc	1880.0		1979.0
Allied Dunbar Gen 4 High Income Ser	242.70		45.00
Allied Dunbar Managed Acc	1419.5		1494.3
Allied Dunbar Property Acc	691.30		727.70
AXA Equity & Law Bal Ser 6	928.80		978.80
AXA Equity & Law Dist Ser 6	108.20		113.80
AXA Equity & Law Hi Inc Ser 6	1387.00		1460.60
AXA Equity & Law UK Eq Ser 6	1372.70		1444.00
Barclays Equity Acc	1177.3		1239.3
Barclays International Acc	492.6		518.6
Barclays Managed Acc	683.8		719.8
Black Horse Income Fund Ser 2	987.27		1039.24
Black Horse Mngd Inc S2	612.75		645
Canada Managed Ser 2	901.00		948.40
CM/Fid Equity	435.7		458.7
CM/Fid Sapphire/Mixed	366.4		385.7
CM With Profits Bond	112.7		112.7
Confederation Equity I	2397.5		2523.6
Commercial Union Managed	513.1		540.2
Commercial Union UK Equity	662.6		697.5
Commercial Union With Profit	141.9		148.5
Eagle Star Managed 2	205.3		216.2
Family Performance	177.29		186.62
Friends Provident Managed	402.6		423.8
Friends Provident UK Equity	553.9		583.1
Friends Provident With Profit	215.1		226.9
General Accident With Profit	163.8		172.4
GA Prov Mutual Eq Ord	993.5		1045.8
GA Prov Mutual Mgd Ord	615.5		647.9
Gan Managed	376.6		395.7
GRE Equity Acc	1395.1		1468.5
GRE International Acc	801.6		844
GRE Managed Acc	867		912.6
Hill Samuel Equity	872.2		898.5
Hill Samuel Managed Ser A	701.3		742.2
Irish Life Global Mgd Prem Ser 3	739.7		778.6
J Rothschild/SAJ Plcs Mgd	201.1		211.7
Laurentian Imperial UK Mgd Acc	343.8		361.5
Laurentian Managed Acc Ser 3	672.5		707.8
Laurentian UK Equity Acc	611.5		643.0
Legal & General Equity Acc	1583.8		1667.2
Legal & General International Acc	663.7		698.7
Legal & General Managed Accum	1066.2		1122.4
London & Manchester Flexible Acc		719.1	
London Equity		1187.3	
London Mixed		752.3	
M & G Managed Bond Acc	1085.8		1150.7
M & G Recovery Bond Acc	960.6		1008.9
Merchant Investors Managed	598.4		629.8
Midland Balanced	107.0		112.7
Midland UK Equity	131.1		138.1
NatWest Growth Managed	151.7		159.3
NatWest Security Mgd	134.4		141.4
NatWest UK Equity	167.3		176.5
Norwich Union Mgd Ex NUAM MF	1882.2		1981.6
Norwich Union Unitised Managed	1838.8		1937.4
Norwich Union Unitsed With Profits	172.07		181.12
NPI Managed	617.2		649.6
Pearl Equity Net	364.4		383.6
Pearl Managed	320.7		337.6
Prudential Prufund Managed	457.7		478.8
Prudential Indiv Mgd Ser 2	1021.3		1075.1
Royal Life Managed	499.5		525.7
Royal Scottish Growth Managed	213.4		224.7
Royal Scottish UK Equity	220.4		232.1
Scottish Amicable Equity Ser 1	798.3		840.4
Scottish Amicable Managed Ser 1	594.3		625.6
Scottish Equitable Mixed	334.7		352.4
Scottish Life Managed	374.5		394.3
Scottish Mutual Safety	283.7		298.6
Scot Prov Inst Blue Chip	213.9		225.3
Scot Prov Inst With-Profits	138.2		145.5
Scottish Widows International	615.2		647.6
Scottish Widows Mixed	589.6		620.6
Standard Equity	1412.0		1486.4
Standard European	218.6		231.1
Standard Far East	180.6		190.2
Standard Fixed Interest	472.1		497.0
Standard Managed	921.5		970.0
Sun Alliance Equity	1239.7		1308.9
Sun Alliance Managed	905.7		953.4
Sun Life Deferred Distribution	211.8		223.0
Sun Life Distribution	315.1		331.7
Sun Life Equity Acc	1997.1		2102.3
Sun Life Managed Acc	1161.2		1222.4
Sun Life Can Century Eq		185.9	
Sun Life Can Century Mgd		159.5	
Sun Life Can Maple Leaf Eq Acc	731.7		770.2
Sun Life Can Maple Leaf Mgd Acc	508.8		535.3
TSB Equity	493.4		519.4
TSB Homebuyer	290.2		305.5
TSB Managed	335.6		353.3

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Steve Homer listens to the experts' advice and looks at how to steer clear of the pitfalls when setting up a small or home office

Steps to turn your dream into a reality

There is probably no other business sector so replete with misty-eyed optimism as the small office/home office sector. Known as Soho for short, it encompasses the dreams of managers escaping large companies to set up on their own, it allows parents to work part-time from home to spend more time with their children, it allows those bored with working at home to open up offices outside the home, regaining a home life and much more besides. But one thing dominates the Soho sector – you are on your own and there are 101 things you have not thought of.

Most people remember to get a phone line connected. They know they need a desk and a chair and, probably, a computer. But that can be as far as it goes. The actual physical layout of your office is important to your efficient operation.

"I think asking where you are going to work and the ergonomics you are going to work in are as or more important than which computer you are going to buy," says Roger Crumpton, general manager of the Computer Suppliers Federation. "Work out which room you are going to work in and sort it out properly. If you are getting an office, take the time to plan it properly."

Mr Crumpton is only too aware of the pitfalls of the home office. Occasionally he works from home, out of a small bedroom, and the results are not satisfactory. There is not enough space. "Your computer and your papers need room to coexist," he says. "You need enough space to support the infrastructure such as a cupboard for stationery and printer ribbons or cartridges. Most people pile them up in a corner and they tumble down when you are doing things. You should expend as much money and effort setting up your own office as you would expect an employer to do for you."

But once you have your nice, easy-to-occupy office what should you be focusing on?

Joe Macri, head of the small business group at Microsoft, quotes from a recent report published by the Small Business Trust. "The number one issue for small businesses is a lack of sales. How do they get business. Second issue is cash flow management which is related to late payment. Neither of these can be solved by technology but it can help."

For new businesses Mr Macri says the most important function is to make people aware of your new products and services. To do this you do not need the most expensive, sophisticated software. You need common sense. "You can use the basics such as word processing, spreadsheets and databases for competitive advantage. For example, a small business can use a laser printer for the things that larger companies might go to an outside printer for and you can do a newsletter using your ordinary word processor. You don't necessarily need a specialist package."

Mr Macri says the Internet is another way of spreading the word. But it is not all plain sailing. "Putting information on the Web is a bit like having a corner shop. You are only going to attract the people that come by. Does the product or service you are offering lend itself to the medium?"

With the help of technology and a friendly economic climate, there has never been a better time to set up a home office

For repeat business a good customer database, and keeping data up to date, is invaluable.

As for late payment he sees this more in terms of a problem of legislation, not of technology, but good records help small companies to chase late payers and gives them the ammunition they need to confront persistent offenders. Simple personal finance packages such as Quicken or Microsoft Money can be suitable for small businesses, or packages like Sage.

Ralph Musgrove, senior product manager for Winfax at software company Semantec, believes small business people should go for simple software products that are easy to run and should ignore large, complicated business packages. "Small businesses lack technical expertise and if you are working on your own you know what your level of technical expertise is! So go for software such as Quicken [a popular personal financial package] that helps you with a business function and can be very useful."

Today the PC can be your fax machine, answerphone, voice mail system and much more.

"Soho people want to look bigger than they are so voice mail and things like that can make you look more professional. Talkworks, which comes with Winfax [software that lets your PC send and receive faxes], can use different 'extensions' in the computer so you can have a message that says 'push one for marketing, two for sales' and so on. You can set it up so that from 5pm to 9am it can say, 'sorry the office is now closed', and during the day it can say, 'all lines are busy'."

Once you have set up your office there is one big thing you may have overlooked, and it could cost you dear – insurance.

People working from home seem to be the most unaware. "They either think they are covered by their employer's policy or their household insurance," says Sean Green, the Norwich Union's household insurance marketing manager.

Depending on what sort of business you are running, your existing policy may cover most of the risk or you may need to change your policy considerably. You will probably need extra public liability and theft cover and you may need professional indemnity.

"Your first port of call should be your existing insurance provider," says Simon Careless, a director of commercial insurance brokers Francis, Townsend and Hayward. "You need to notify them anyway if you are going to be working from home. You don't want to start a commercial policy unless you have to as the minimum premium is around £250."

However it is not all plain sailing. "If you are working from home then the insurer will have to make sure that your occupation is acceptable. They may not like it if floods of people are coming through your home or you are keeping lots of stock on site."

Where a few years ago it was virtually impossible to find anyone with a policy that would easily cover your computer at home if you started working there, today most companies will offer cover for up to £15,000 worth of office equipment at home – for a price.

Most policies for home and small offices will also cover your portable while you are out of the office and most will also cover the petty cash.

There never has been a better time for striking out on your own. There is technology that will allow you to maximise your impact and multiply the effect of your skills. Software to make it work easily. Insurance so you need never be in too much trouble and a climate that is friendly to small businesses.

Make sense of the computer conundrum

There is always a better PC around the corner, but **Steve Homer** finds out how to decide which machine to buy now

Buying a computer is always a difficult process. There is never a right time to buy and there is always a better machine coming around the corner for less money than you are about to pay for yours. Buying a computer for your business is that much more important. While you should not throw money away, you should not be too mean about what you buy.

"The PC on your desk is a business tool. That is all. If you do not have that orientation you will get confused by all the hype – you will be worried about falling out of fashion," says Nick Eades, PC marketing manager at IBM.

Mr Eades would not buy a typical home machine with a games angle for a serious business. He believes you will be in danger of ending up with too many bits you do not need.

He splits the market into two – those for whom a computer is just another piece of office equipment, like a photocopier or a fax machine, and those for whom it is an essential business engine.

For the first group he says it can pay to cut off a few unnecessary branches. "If you can afford to buy more on your machine, don't buy trinkets such as fancy 3D graphics accelerators if you are mainly going to use your machine for word processing. Buying a bigger disc, more memory or a faster processor, which will give you much more benefit."

Those in the second category are more technically aware. For them the key is to get the hardware to run the software that they need for their computer-intensive job. This might mean enhanced graphics, special screens, bigger hard discs, fancy sound cards, but it needs to be tailored to their needs.

Lisa Clark, senior product marketing manager for consumer business at Compaq, agrees that you should not be throwing your money around willy-nilly. "It all depends on what you want to do. Most people can get by with pretty basic technology. They do not need the most powerful machines in the world. Anything that is quite graphics-intensive needs more power and you should buy an MMX-based machine."

MMX is a technology Intel released in January that will speed up so-called multimedia programs. While there are few programs out there that will fully take advantage of the technology, many MMX programs are in the pipeline and as you are likely to keep your computer for several years it would probably be a false economy to buy a non-MMX machine unless you were sticking resolutely to simple word processing.

However, Ms Clark does believe that if you can invest the money computers can make a big difference. "The new computer technologies not only allow companies to look bigger than they are but can allow them to present themselves ... more favourably. With a combination of technologies such as digital cameras and colour printers, companies can present themselves in a truly professional and exciting way."

> "Most people can get by with pretty basic technology"

Roger Crumpton, general manager of the Computer Suppliers Federation, wants people to think wider than the specification of their PC.

"If you are buying something like a printer, think of the breadth of use, not of the performance. So if you occasionally need colour or sometimes need very high quality then you might be able to find that in your budget by going for a slower machine with more capabilities."

One thing Mr Crumpton does get excited about though is monitors. "People will quite happily pay over £1,000 for a computer and not even think about their monitor. It's the largest cost item in the PC, more expensive than the hard disc or processor or memory but most people do not even look at it. They just take what comes. They worry much more about whether they have four megabytes of VRAM in their graphics card than they do about something they are going to be spending up to 10 hours a day staring at." Smaller monitors are simply not suited to fine detail work, he points out. Once again the message is buy wisely and spend your money on the parts of the PC that matter to you.

"You want to think carefully why you are buying a computer," says Mick Andon, group editor of *What PC?* magazine. "You want to go through the decision consciously. Where will you primarily be working from? Maybe you should get a portable. The nature of documents you will be working on; word processing you can do on anything, graphics, a faster processor. Once you have a clear idea of the boundaries of the work you will be doing on this machine then you will be able to buy wisely."

Unlike Mr Eades, Mr Andon believes most PCs intended for home use are perfectly adequate for business and, given the economies of scale they enjoy, can be a good business choice.

"You don't need to think too much about graphics cards and so on but you don't want to get an under-specified machine in case you need more facilities in the future. You should buy the highest spec, best performance machine you can. Not necessarily the fastest but, for example, consider a 17in monitor over a 14in one. You don't need to go for the most powerful processor but you should probably choose an MMX. Any [processor of] 133 MHz [speed] or above is good for almost anything you are likely to do. But compare the price differential of a 166 MHz. At the moment you might as well pay the extra £50 for a faster machine."

Mr Andon says buyers should check out the warranties carefully. He advises against taking a retailer's warranty as the manufacturer's is usually adequate and in any case machines are pretty reliable these days.

He does suggest trying to check out a company's service ethos. "Check when help is available, see how long you have it for, see if you have to ring a premium-rate number to get support. Sorting out a problem on a computer can be a time-consuming thing and you can end up spending a fortune getting your computer fixed."

One last point worth restating. Don't be too cheap on what you buy. Nick Eades of IBM suggests buying from a named brand ... "if it really matters to your business. If the company screws up, for what even reason, if the company you bought from has gone out of business your business might as well, while you wait for your machine to be fixed." This might overstate the case but make sure you know what you will do if everything goes wrong.

This is important. While you might not rely on your computer when you first buy it, chances are six months down the line you will.

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Netting a tool that will become vital

Steve Homer

Like it or not you cannot ignore the Internet.

The Internet is a worldwide network of linked computers that you can explore for free. To access the Internet you pay an Internet service provider (ISP) around £10 to £15 per month and after that everything else is free. Some companies that provide extra services add a time-based usage charge on top of the basic connection fee. For the busy professional most would agree the Internet is an invaluable source of information and communications.

The two most important components of the Internet are electronic mail, known as e-mail, and the World Wide Web. E-mail lets you communicate with people all over the world almost *instantly* but it is probably most useful in dealing with people that you have strong business relationships with.

A useful feature of e-mail is that you can reply to a mail sent to you with just a single click and so you can set up a very efficient dialogue. But e-mail can be very impersonal and misunderstandings can easily arise. So for personal contacts use the phone or have face-to-face meetings.

The Web can be a real marvel. It consists of pages of linked information. If you run a building company one of your suppliers might have a Web site detailing its products. By clicking on links you can first choose timber supplies, then check that the company has the specific type of timber you need in stock.

For professionals the Web, linked with search engines that index the Web, can prove an invaluable research tool, but it can be slow.

"The value of the Web in general can be overstated for business but the ability to research and get information is most important. It really is information at your fingertips instead of getting on a bus to a specialist library," says Jonathan Bulkeley, general manager of AOL in the UK. "If you need a government statistic or a filing paper or some information on the oil business, odds are you will find it stored electronically and usually available at no cost." And, says Mr Bulkeley, while finding that information on the Web might take some time, it is usually still quicker than "traditional methods".

But the Web can also have a proactive role. "It is the Web's marketing and communication ability that is especially important for small business," says Richard Woods, corporate communications consultant at UUNET UK. "A small company can get a Web site for a few hundred pounds a year. With that they can expose their products and services to a wider audience particularly internationally."

The Web can be a useful place for business intelligence, says Nick Gilbert, news editor of *Internet World*. "If you need information on your competitors, now that so many companies have their own pages, the Web can be a good place to look. You can also pick up a lot of information from sites which offer good business resources. For example, the DTI has a web page that is quite helpful for small companies."

So how do you decide who to sign on with?

"There are over 200 ISPs in the UK alone and there is not a whole world of difference between them," says Mr Gilbert.

The number of subscribers a company has can be a useful yardstick and some companies have higher-priced business services that do seem to offer a higher level of service, he says. In general he suggests checking out the company's record on service with colleagues and in magazines. Setting up with a decent supplier is important as your e-mail address is usually tied to the supplier. So if you decide you have to part company with them you will have to change your e-mail address, which could be a costly and time-consuming business.

Gail Robinson, editor of *Internet Magazine*, says it is worth making the distinction between Internet service providers and online providers which major on providing their own content as well as access to the Internet. "As far as relevant content for a small business goes, CompuServe is pretty impressive and they have the largest subscriber base in the UK. AOL is also pretty good in this area too. The likes of CompuServe and AOL also have good set-up software which makes it easier to configure for a non-technical user. The down side of these services is that they do tend to charge more for their services than straight access providers.

"As far as straight Internet access goes, look at features such as cost per month for unlimited access, quality of software bundled, the technical support hours. And give them a call before you subscribe so you can see how they handle customers. *Internet Magazine* publishes a list of access provider performance tests every month."

For many businesses the Internet will rapidly become as important a business tool as the telephone or the post. It is worth spending a bit of time researching who you will put your business with.

Big benefits of small machines

You might not have thought of it but a portable computer could offer you a lot of benefits if you are setting up an office.

"If you are working for yourself then time is money," points out Andy Bass, assistant general manager for marketing at Toshiba. "If you are ever away from home you have to work out how much a portable would be worth to you."

But the benefits of owning a portable are not just consigned to the idea of tapping away on the train. There is more flexibility in general.

"The flexibility a portable offers means you can use your computer in more than one location," says David Matthews, senior product manager for Compaq portables. "If you are a marketing or sales person or someone like that, you can use it to demonstrate and do presentations."

Another huge benefit is size. Almost by definition one of the main problems people have setting up an efficient home office or a small office for their business is finding space for all the equipment they need. Portable computers can be a real boon. In one tiny unit you have the monitor, keyboard and the whole processor unit. You get all three in a space smaller than you would fit the monitor alone.

"If you have a study in your home that you use as an office a big computer may clutter up the place," says Mr Bass. "The ability to put the computer away in a drawer when people are coming to visit can be very satisfying."

And people are turning to portables. Research company The Gartner Group estimates that one in five personal computers sold today is a portable.

"We have seen a very big increase in portables used as desktop replacements in the last few years," says Robin Stuff, portable product marketing manager at Digital. One reason portables have started to find favour is that screen sizes have steadily increased, making them much more readable.

Portable computers offer flexibility and the chance to save space in a small or home office

There are two main types of screens – STN and TFT. TFT screens can add up to £300 to £500 to the price of a machine but they have a wider viewing angle, making them better for presentations, and they are crisper so they may be better if you are going to be spending long periods staring at the screen, but modern STN can be very good too.

There are ergonomic down sides to portables. The screens can still be difficult to use, keyboards can also be imperfect. Both of these can be remedied. All portables have sockets to plug in keyboards and monitors so you can buy these as home extras.

One add-on you will probably want is a mouse. But many portables only have one port for connecting either a keyboard or a mouse. If you want to use both you could be scuppered.

All manufacturers make machines with built-in CD-Roms and sound systems. You may pay a little more for them than for these features in "traditional" machines but not a lot.

"Portables are a lot more integrated than before," says Mr Matthews. "You can pretty much get any configuration of machine you need to suit your needs. You do pay quite a premium for a portable. It can cost over double the price of a comparable machine. It depends on circumstances. You have to look at this as part of your overall business costs. A portable can be a very cost-effective investment. You have to get the right equipment for your business, but you should be able to find a cost-effective tool to do the job you need." However, you can get a good portable for £1,500.

Many features, like voice/data modem functions, can be added easily via a PCMCIA card which goes into the little slot in the side of your portable.

But if you do go down the portable route there are a couple of serious down sides you have to take account of. There is the well known problem of battery life and then there is the nightmare scenario.

"You are taking your business' lifeblood with you when you leave your office," says Mr Stuff. "If you drop it, it can break, although most portables are robust enough these days, or it can be stolen. You simply have to be disciplined and back-up your data. It easy to restore your operating system but a pig to restore all your data."

The problems with portables breaking and being stolen are legitimate concerns, says Mr Matthews, but with so many small business premises getting burgled anyway, portables offer one last benefit. "At least you can sleep with your portable under your pillow."

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The all-in-one answer to office equipment woes

Sara Bean

Until recently, you needed separate devices for printing, faxing and copying, all of which cost money and took up valuable space. But because printers, faxes and copiers are all based on the same technology, isn't it logical to combine them in one machine? There is now a proliferation of new "all-in-one" devices, ranging from combined fax/printer/scanners, to copiers which can double as colour printers.

Manufacturers are falling over themselves to come up with the ideal combination machine, but going for the "all-in-one" or "multifunction" solution means that at least one of the functions is a disappointment. So before you choose anything, decide on your priorities.

Do you want a fax machine with printer add-ons, or a printer which doubles as a low-end copier/fax? If you're after a fax-based machine, first check out the transmission speeds. The entry-level fax transmission speed is currently 9,600bps (bits per second) but faster 14,400bps machines are common. Data compression also speeds up transmission times, so the more data compression available, the better. Also ensure that the machine has enough memory to store incoming or outgoing fax documents. More than 15 pages is best.

Next, decide on the print quality. A resolution of 300 x 300dpi (dots per inch) may be fine for a fax, but not for a printer, so look for a resolution of at least 300 x 600dpi, with 600 x 600dpi the ideal. And check on paper handling. You don't want a machine which constantly needs replenishing, so ensure there is at least a 150-sheet paper tray.

You'll also need to pick a printer type. Inkjets use little ink-filled cartridges which fire ink at a page to produce an image. They're cheap to buy and offer low-cost colour printing. However, inkjet print quality varies, print speeds can be rather slow and the ink cartridges can be used up quickly if you produce a lot of densely covered documents.

Laser printers, which use a drum and toner, are more expensive to buy but provide higher quality print and are suited to more demanding applications. Print speeds for inkjets range from 2ppm to around 8ppm (pages per minute), while the average speed of an "all-in-one" laser model is 10 to 20ppm.

If your main priorities are copying and printing, a machine with a flat-bed scanner, which allows you to copy from books, is a must. Most fax-based models only offer "convenience copying", meaning you can only scan separate pages. Currently, the flat-bed fax/copier/printer is quite rare, though new machines are expected soon. At £2,350, plus £499 for a printer interface, Ricoh's MV310 isn't cheap, but it offers 10ppm copying with a flat-bed scanner, laser printing and faxing.

The Brother MFC9000 is a good example of a fax/printer with "convenience copying". For £949 you get a fast, 14,400bps fax modem, a 200-sheet paper tray and 600 x 600dpi laser print resolution.

For low-cost copying/printing, look at the Hewlett Packard OfficeJet Pro 1150C. At £699 this inkjet printer/copier has a flat-bed scanner and offers a print quality of 600 x 600dpi in black and white and 600 x 300dpi in colour.

Alternatively, Toshiba's TF-461 (£649), is a colour-capable fax/printer with a large 35-page fax memory, even though it doesn't have a flat-bed scanner.

Whichever model you buy, it is very important to take out a good warranty. An all-in-one machine is cheaper to buy and means you only have to pay for one set of consumables, but it does mean all your eggs are in the proverbial basket. If it breaks down, you can wave goodbye to all your fax, copying and printing functions. Most suppliers should be able to offer a warranty which promises an engineer visit within a stipulated period and includes a loan machine should yours need to be taken away.

Sara Bean is Editor of 'What to Buy for Business'

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Now's the time to get mobile

A mobile phone can be vital to stay in touch with your business. **Steve Homer** reports on the ever-increasing variety available

If you are looking for a mobile phone for your business you have never had more choice. It is as if someone has been feeding the mobile phone industry steroids.

Where a year or two ago the idea of a mobile phone in a green case was an exciting innovation, there is now nothing that the mobile phone cannot do.

With penetration in some markets reaching 50 per cent of the adult population, the manufacturers have finally realised that the one-size-fits-all approach just won't wash any more. So phones now have to either look good, have clever functions or both.

One of most talked about phones in recent months is the Philips Genie, due to arrive in the shops next month priced at under £250. This tiny little phone with its unique pop-down microphone is claimed to be the smallest GSM phone on the market. It also has a battery life of up to 22 days (admittedly with a larger than usual battery) and most impressively it has a little bit of voice recognition built in. While you cannot say to it "reduce the ringer volume by 50 per cent", you can still hit a button and say the name of the person you want to dial. This works well on the street where fiddling around with tiny buttons is a pain, and it is invaluable in a car.

The voice control system is not new but using it in such a tiny phone is claimed to be a first. Other manufacturers, notably Motorola, are not far behind.

The Genie also includes an organiser with "to do" list and the usual bits and pieces. There are now dozens of organiser-type phones either on the market or just about to hit the shops.

Sharp has been showing a phone, jointly developed with Alcatel, that uses a pressure-sensitive screen instead of dialling buttons. While this makes the phone a little bit clumsy for ordinary use it makes it ideal for all the other tasks it is asked to perform.

Using the data-carrying capacity of the GSM network it takes just a couple of taps on the screen to send or receive a fax or an e-mail.

Nokia pioneered this approach last year with its Communicator but that product is too bulky and too heavy for many consumers. The Sharp/Alcatel phone, due out later this year, is the same size as a conventional GSM phone.

On call: Armed with a mobile phone you need never be away from your business

Another small but significant innovation is the Nokia 3110. While many companies are introducing phones with what seems like dozens of extra function buttons, Nokia has gone back to the drawing board and re-engineered its basic phone design. The 3110 has fewer, not more, buttons than most phones. And by this simple piece of clear thinking, all of a sudden the phone is easier to use.

But phones are not just getting clever, they are learning to travel too. Dancall and Motorola have announced phones that will work in Europe and the USA.

This is a clever trick but in the last few months multi-standard phones have been popping up everywhere.

The first to arrive were the GSM/DCS 1800 phones. These use the GSM digital signalling system, as used by Cellnet and Vodafone, and can use the DCS 1800 system, also called PCN, as used by Orange and One 2 One. As there are, in most international markets, more GSM operators than PCN operators this makes life a lot easier for PCN users when they travel abroad.

The big innovation recently is the unveiling of phones that will work in GSM and the American digital standard PCS. So far PCS has not been very widely accepted in the US – only a handful of cities have operational PCS networks – so this is still early days. But for some transatlantic travellers these new phones will prove a godsend. Motorola says its phone should be available later this year.

One other type of dual-mode phone that looks interesting are the GSM/DECT phones. DECT is a standard for cordless phones. It is starting to take off in office systems, with wireless private exchanges using DECT becoming very popular. The dual-mode phones work with the DECT system while they are in the office but when you go outside, as the DECT signal weakens, the phone automatically switches into GSM mode. There are no simple systems yet for the Soho market, but keep your eyes open.

A rather neat innovation for the dedicated road warrior is the phone-in-the-computer data set-up. At least four companies are launching tiny phones that slot into the PC card slot on the side of a laptop computer. These phones are aimed at the GSM data user. The idea is straightforward. With so many people these days using their portable computers to access e-mail and so on, while out making business calls, why not design a "phone" specially for them.

The phones in question are certainly not ideal as a substitute for a phone in your pocket. They can only be used when they are physically plugged in to the computer so carrying them around can be impractical. They really are intended to be used alongside a different phone in your pocket. The additional microphone and earpiece connections for most people will never be used.

One last innovation makes it easier to carry your phone with you. German company Hagenuk is selling a rather nice little phone which has no external antenna. While this might sound like a trivial departure, it makes quite a difference.

Anyone who has used a mobile phone will tell you that the antennas are for ever getting caught up in coat linings, getting bent and/or falling off. Perhaps more important is that the lack of an external antenna on the nicely styled Global Handy has allowed radiation absorption rates to be reduced by up to three to six times, according to the company.

If you think things are complicated now be warned things are bound to get more complicated still. At least half a dozen companies have announced they are getting into the mobile phone business. One to watch could well be Acer. This Taiwanese company is one of the giants of the computer industry with a reputation for well-engineered products.

For the Sobo user, the choice of mobile phone is complicated, but the variety available will continue to grow.

Make the phone work for your business needs

Steve Homer

Time was when you bought a telephone and rented a line and you were either on the phone or you weren't. Things have changed.

Probably no aspect of communications is so overlooked by small business as sophisticated phone usage. At the most basic level, even a private line now has so much flexibility that it can act as your own switchboard. Added to that, special numbers, such as freephone numbers and local call rate numbers, are within the grasp of any business.

"The flexibility of the modern telephone system means that even the smallest business can vastly increase its effectiveness at a minimum cost with a little careful thought," says Brian Mackow-McGuire, BT business solutions marketing manager.

With your telephones today, probably the only golden rule is that you don't want a potential customer or contact to get the busy tone when they ring you. At the most simple level you have a choice of call waiting or using two telephone lines. "Some people are more comfortable with a phone ringing, some people prefer a beep in their ear," says Mr Mackow-McGuire.

Call waiting works by letting you know a second person is ringing you when you hear a quiet "bip bip". You ask the person you are talking to to hold on and you check who it is.

Until recently a problem with the system was that if you ignored the second caller you could not divert them to an answering service. This is now changing and you will soon be able to divert to BT's Call Minder answerphone service on most exchanges.

If you have two phones you can set up the lines so that if you are engaged talking on one line the call will divert to the other (often a fax line) and you will pick up the call there. Neither solution is perfect. One slight refinement is to use calling line identification (known as Caller ID, by BT). With a special phone or using a small add-on box you can see who is calling before you answer the phone. Connect this up with equipment to your PC and you can call up a record and see who is calling and, if you do not want to interrupt your present call, you can divert them to an answerphone.

But of course these days it is not just BT providing these services. In some areas you have the option of connecting up with a cable TV company. Depending on what equipment they have installed you will be able to get similar services from them.

Companies like Mercury do not connect up small offices directly (most of the business telecoms operators will not install fewer than 10-20 lines).

One place where open warfare is starting up between the phone companies is in the provision of specialised numbers.

You may have noticed BT spending a small fortune advertising its freephone service. This is because since June 16 existing freephone number users have been able to migrate, with their numbers, to companies like AT&T. Why is this an issue for small companies and sole traders? Because freephone and similar services are not nearly as expensive as you think.

BT will charge you £156 per quarter if you just receive on average fewer than five calls a day. However, it pays to shop around. AT&T offers an 0800 number for just £100 per year with incoming calls charged to you at just 5 to 10p depending on time of day. "Less than 3 per cent of UK traffic is freephone compared with some 40 per cent of calls in the USA," says Shawn Nissy, freephone marketing manager at AT&T. "If you can get 10 more calls a month on a freephone number and get one sale out of them that will be a revenue-generating service."

Another benefit of freephone and other special numbers is that they are not linked to any specific location.

"Freephone numbers allow you to have a virtual presence on and be on an even keel with people much larger than yourself," says Mr Nissy. "And not only does it make you look bigger, if a customer is upset with you they are more likely to be happier to sort out the problem if they are not footing the bill for the call. The way in make money is to sort out those problems fast and keep the customers coming back."

Then there are other types of phone number that are equally unexpectedly cost effective. Local-rate call numbers, national-rate numbers and even premium numbers are worth investigating for the small business.

There are also the "follow me" phone numbers where you give out just one number but depending on set-up, time of day and so forth the call is diverted to either your home, your office or, for example, if you do not answer, to your mobile.

The problem here is that customers pay somewhere in the region of 30p a minute for calling you. But if you are a consultant working for big firms they may well not begrudge the small premium they pay for getting hold of you quickly. Premium-rate numbers are surprisingly cheap to set up and can provide a good source of revenue.

Finally there are lots of other facilities offered by the various companies for slightly more sophisticated call-handling services where calls can be diverted between phones. The bottom line is that you should spend a bit of time thinking about your phone service before you settle into it.

"You want to look like a very competent company which means you want to look bigger than you are," says Mr Mackow-McGuire. "In order to not compete on price with your competitors you want to differentiate yourself on customer service or flexibility so customers continue to come back to you or come to you in the first place."

All in all, while the phone is now a much more complicated business tool it certainly can be a more productive one.

Making the right choice

Simon Rockman

Battery life is the single most important criterion for choosing a mobile phone. Most mobile phones are so good today you can scrape by for a day even with quite heavy usage, but it's wise to buy something which will easily handle your power consumption.

However much you think you will use a mobile phone you are wrong. Nearly everyone uses them more than they think they will. The most important thing to look at, for anything other than an emergency phone, is the talk time. Research conducted by *What Mobile* magazine showed that phones with longer standby times were soon outclassed by those with the long talk times once they were used in an everyday environment. Quoted standby times rely upon network features and conditions which are rarely encountered. Talk times too are overly optimistic but less so. If you are going to rely on a phone for your business you need something which won't go flat in the middle of an important call.

This pretty much means buying a phone which is either heavy, or which uses a Lithium Ion battery. Lithium Ion is newer and significantly more expensive than Nickel Metal Hydride – which has now taken over from Nickel Cadmium as the mainstream battery technology. It's more expensive phones which offer Lithium Ion and these tend to be the ones with the best screens.

This is the second most important consideration. If you are used to a desk phone with no screen at all then a five-line display may seem excessive. One line seems luxurious. But mobile phones are different. You program them. You want to enter names and numbers for the people you call, and because all digital mobile phones show you the number of the person who is calling, the people who call you. It's much more useful to have a phone show the name of the person calling than the ridiculous eleven-digit numbers we have in the UK. The bigger the screen the more you can do with the phone, if you are a pager user the phone can easily take over that function, the mobile phone Short Message Service is more reliable than pagers because messages wait until you are in coverage and the phone is switched on to be delivered.

Phones with Lithium Ion batteries and a good screen include the Nokia 8110, Motorola Slimlite, the excellent Sony Z1 (probably the easiest phone there is to use) and the tiny Motorola StarTAC. All of these phones are at the top end of the mobile phone price scale; somewhere between £80 and £300 but as the typical business user will spend about £60 a month using the phone it is not a major part of the cost over the first couple of years.

Simon Rockman is editor of 'What Mobile' magazine

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Peslier loses ride on Arc winner

Racing
JOHN COBB

If Sunday's Irish Derby is starting to lose a little importance after the defection of Benny The Dip to Sandown and Peintre Celebre to Longchamp, the race still has heavy significance for Olivier Peslier. The Chantilly-based jockey has been claimed by Daniel Wildenstein to ride Loup Sauvage at the Curragh and thus misses the ride on the mighty Helissio in the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud. More significantly, it is likely to result in him being replaced as the Arc winner's regular rider.

Bruno Ridoux, racing manager to Helissio's owner, Enrique Sarasola, confirmed that Cash Asmussen will take over on the colt's back and that the new arrangement is likely to become permanent.

"We don't think that it is fair to start chopping and changing riders with a horse of Helissio's calibre," he said. "We have to take into account that Peslier is also very unlikely to be available in the Arc de Triomphe."

The Arc remains Helissio's long-term target, and it is also the goal of Peintre Celebre, Wildenstein's Prix du Jockey-Club winner.

Helissio will be using Sunday's Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud as a stepping stone towards extending his formidable record (seven wins from nine races) on his first foray to Britain for the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot on 26 July.

Loup Sauvage is a top-priced 7-1 for Sunday's race, in which Silver Patriarch dominates the betting after 12 horses were declared at yesterday's acceptance stage, including three – Desert King, Johan Cruyff and Strawberry Roan – from the Aidan O'Brien stable that has sent out the winners of both Irish Classics so far this year.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Royal Expression (Hamilton 9.00)
NB: Yet Again (Carlisle 5.15)

Silver Patriarch, the Derby runner-up, pleased John Dunlop in his pre-Curragh gallop yesterday. "All went well," Dunlop said. "He did a nice piece of work and it is now absolutely all systems go for Ireland."

Punters looking for rather longer odds than the 11-10 available about Silver Patriarch were out in force yesterday chasing the Tote Jackpot at Warwick, where a carry-over of £453,193 tempted speculators to add another £426,305 to the pot.

With 6-1 the longest winning odds, the prize was reasonably achievable and resulted in a dividend of just £5,644.40 to a £1 stake. As David Hood, of William Hill, pointed out: "The SP accumulator paid over 8,682-1. This makes the Jackpot dividend look paltry. The pool was £879,499, but this was before the Tote sliced 29% (255,054) off for their deductions."

Rob Hartnett, of the Tote, countered: "I will listen to such criticism the day that 426,305 £1 accumulator bets are placed on a mid-week Warwick meeting."

A rather more serious casualty at the meeting than punters' losing bets was Mark Rimmer. He suffered internal injuries after his mount, Irish Fiction, clipped the heels of another runner in the selling race and fell fatally, causing a pile-up. Rimmer was detained in hospital where he was described as conscious and comfortable.

Results, page 31

Irish Derby (1m 4f)

Horse	C	H	L	T
Silver Patriarch	11-10	evens	4-5	evens
Strawberry Roan	11-2	4-1	8-1	9-2
Loup Sauvage	6-1	7-1	7-1	6-1
Desert King	6-1	7-1	5-1	8-1
Johan Cruyff	8-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
The Fly	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
Dr Johnson	20-1	20-1	10-1	20-1
Vengilas	20-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Casey Tibbs	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Token Gesture	25-1	14-1	20-1	20-1
Olympic Majesty	50-1	66-1	50-1	66-1
Buddy Marvel	150-1	200-1	150-1	150-1

Each-way a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Curragh, Sunday)

C – Coral, H – William Hill, L – Ladbrokes, T – Tote

SALISBURY

HYPERION
2.30 Kawafil 3.00 Golden Ace 3.30 Mr Sponge 4.00 Highly Prized 4.30 Dulcinea 5.00 Pointer

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight – far side; 1m 4f – stands side.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.
■ Right-hand course, mainly uphill and testing.
■ Course is 3m SW of city off A3094. Salisbury station 3m. Bus service to course. ADMISSION: Members £13; Tattersalls £9; Course Enclosure £4. CAR PARK: Free.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bajan Rose (5.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Eight horses have been sent 161 miles from Newmarket, Suffolk.

2.30 EBF WEYHILL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO fillies 5f

1 50 ALLASELLA (19) B Palling 8 11 .... 7 Sprake 9
2 CAPTIVATING R Hannon 8 11 .... Dane O'Neill 11
3 5 DODO (14) D Elsworth 8 11 .... Pat Eddery 9
4 FLORAL PARK G Balding 8 11 .... F Tynan (7) 2
5 0 FRANCESCA'S FOLLY (26) J Hills 8 11 .... M Hills 10
6 FROLICKING J Dunlop 8 11 .... W Ryan 5
7 GAILY MILL I Balding 8 11 .... L Dettori 3
8 4 KAWAFIL (14) P Walwyn 8 11 .... R Hills 1
9 KENKAN P Cole 8 11 .... T Quinn 7
10 PERFECT HARMONY B Meehan 8 11 .... M Tebbutt 4
11 TO LOVE WITH LOVE W Jarvis 8 11 .... I Reid 6
– 11 declared –
BETTING: 3-1 Kenkan, 5-1 Kawafil, 11-2 Dodo, 6-1 Captivating, 8v Frolicking, Gaily Mill, 9-1 To Love With Love, 10-1 Perfect Harmony, 20-1 others

3.00 MARTIN CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m

1 15-640 GOLDEN ACE (32) (D) R Hannon 4 9 10 .... Dane O'Neill 18
2 100-06 RIVERS MAGIC (4) J Bridger 4 9 7 .... A Daly (5) 9
3 11303- YOUNG DUKE (278) (BF) Mrs S Williams 8 9 5 .... L Dettori 7
4 00-000 JAAZIM (28) M Madgwick 7 9 2 .... A Eddery (7) 17
5 004006 WHOTHEHELLISHARRY (7) P Dalton 4 9 1 .... P McCabe (3) 16
6 1343-0 CAPE PIGEON (37) (D BF) L G Cottrell 12 8 12 .... D Holland 6
7 00-500 GREEN GOLIGHTLY (144) R M Flower 8 8 12 .... F Norton 3
8 06200- TARIAN (354) N Lampard 5 8 12 .... R Cody-Boutcher (7) 4
8 BABA SADHU P Makin 3 8 9 .... S Sanders 1
10 122300 SHANGHAI LIL (47) (D) M Fetherston-Godley 5 8 9 .... I Reid 13
11 5000-0 FAIRLY SURE (51) (D) N Berry 4 8 7 .... P Denby (7) 14
12 4-024 MATOAKA (12) (BF) R Williams 3 8 7 .... J Quinn 10
13 000-00 PERSIAN DAWN (6) R Phillips 4 8 7 .... R Perham 12
14 346-00 SCOTTISH PARK (11) (D) M Pipe 8 8 7 .... M Henry (3) 8
15 0-0003 EURO SUPERSTAR (FR) (11) S Dow 3 8 5 .... 7 Quinn 5
16 0 MOREDUN (12) I Balding 3 8 2 .... Martin Dwyer (3) 2
17 0- PAMPASA (FR) (345) C James 3 8 0 .... C Rutter 11
– 17 declared –
BETTING: 9-4 Young Duke, 11-4 Golden Ace, 7-1 Rivers Magic, 8-1 Cape Pigeon, 10-1 Matoaka, 12-1 Moredun, 14-1 Pampasa, 16-1 Baba Sadhu, Shanghai Lil, 20-1 others

3.30 MARGADALE STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added 3YO 7f

1 1 BYZANTIUM (32) Lord Huntingdon 9 0 .... D Harrison 2
2 1 HAIR (12) (D) E Dunlop 9 0 .... D O'Donohoe (3) 7
3 31 MR SPONGE (USA) (14) (CD) I Balding 9 0 .... L Dettori 6
4 1 SNOW KID (18) (D) O Loder 8 0 .... Pat Eddery 5
5 1 PEPPIATT (64) R Akehurst 8 10 .... 7 Quinn 1
6 5-0 CHILI BOUCHIER (USA) (15) O Marks 8 5 .... S Sanders 6
7 55- HANAN (USA) (333) P Kelleway 8 5 .... D J Whyte 4
– 7 declared –
BETTING: 3-1 Hair, 7-2 Byzantium, 4-1 Mr Sponge, Snow Kid, 5-1 Hanan, 8-1 Peppiatt, 66-1 Chili Bouchier

4.00 GIBBS MEW BIBURY CUP HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 3YO 1m 4f

1 5-251 RAINWATCH (13) (D) J Dunlop 8 7 .... Pat Eddery 4
2 01 BADGE OF FAME (14) (D) L Cumani 8 2 .... L Dettori 7
3 00-104 NORTHERN SUN (52) T Mills 8 2 .... W Ryan 11
4 3-13 MOTET (14) (BF) G Wragg 8 0 .... M Hills 10
5 03-412 TOM TAILOR (GER) (21) (BF) D Elsworth 8 13 .... 7 Sprake 8
6 406120 HEART OF ARMOR (13) (D) P Cole 8 13 .... 7 Quinn 6
7 2-2414 PROTOCOL (13) J Hills 8 7 .... R Hills 3
8 0-0204 HIGHLY PRIZED (13) I Balding 8 6 .... Martin Dwyer (3) 1
8 64-033 SPY KNOLL (38) M Stoute 8 6 .... I Reid 6
10 26-43 NORDIC CREST (21) P Harris 8 5 .... J Quinn 2
11 3-330 DEEP WATER (USA) (30) P Cole 8 3 .... David O'Neill (7) 8
– 11 declared –
BETTING: 3-1 Badge Of Fame, 4-1 Rainwatch, 13-2 Spy Knoll, 8-1 Protocol, Tom Tailor, 6-1 Motet, 10-1 Heart Of Armor, Nordic Crest, Northern Sun, 14-1 Highly Prized, 16-1 Deep Water

4.30 SHREWTON RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 7f

1 000 DURABLE GEORGE (11) J Bridger 9 0 .... A Daly (5) 8
2 200 GIKO (14) J Poulton 9 0 .... S Drowne 10
3 32-353 MIKE'S DOUBLE (12) Gay Kelleway 9 0 .... J Quinn 8
4 5383 PRINCE ZANDO (12) C Horgan 9 0 .... Paul Eddery 2
5 00-062 SAND CAY (USA) (15) R Hannon 9 0 .... Dane O'Neill S
6 0-06 DULCINEA (25) I Balding 8 11 .... L Dettori 7
7 50-24 FREE AS A BIRD (11) M Channon 8 11 .... Pat Eddery 1
8 240-30 HOH DANCER (62) I Balding 8 11 .... Martin Dwyer (3) 9
8 000-00 PERCHANCE TO DREAM (14) B R Millman 8 11 .... 7 Sprake 6
10 00-036 WELCOME HOME (7) P Dalton 8 11 .... S Sanders 4
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 3-1 Prince Zando, 7-2 Sand Cay, 4-1 Free As A Bird, 11-2 Dulcinea, 8-1 Hoh Dancer, 10-1 Welcome Home, 14-1 Giko, 16-1 others

5.00 ALDERHOLT SPRINT HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 5f

1 300-66 GOLDEN POUND (12) Gay Kelleway 5 9 12 .... Dane O'Neill 2
2 005201 WHITE EMIR (12) (D) B Meehan 4 8 8 .... Pat Eddery 6 8
3 -35160 MISTER JOLSON (15) (CD) R Hodges 8 9 6 .... L Dettori 4
4 4-2510 LITERARY SOCIETY (18) (D) J Toller 4 9 6 .... S Sanders 8
5 0-0605 BAJAN ROSE (15) (C) (D) M Blanshard 5 9 5 .... J Quinn 1 8
6 233600 ROBELLION (15) (D) D Arbuthnot 6 8 6 .... D Harrison 9 V
7 000-06 MACGILLYCUDDY (14) (D) Mrs N Dutfield 8 8 2 .... 7 Sprake 3 8
8 001404 HALF TONE (5) (D) R Flower 5 7 12 .... Martin Dwyer (3) 7 8
9 -54506 POINTER (14) (C) Mrs N Dutfield 5 7 12 .... Aimee Cook (5) 8
– 9 declared –
BETTING: 7-2 White Emir, 4-1 Literary Society, 5-1 Half Tone, 6-1 Bajan Rose, 13-2 Mister Jolson, 7-1 Golden Pound, 10-1 Pointer, 12-1 Macgillycuddy, Robellion

CARLISLE

HYPERION
2.15 Eloquent 2.45 Nervous Rex 3.15 Euro Sceptic 3.45 Bollin Frank 4.15 Priory Gardens 4.45 Euphoric Illusion 5.15 Sherqy

GOING: Firm.
STALLS: 6f – centre; rest – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 7f to 1m 4f.
■ Right-hand, undulating course. Run-in of 250yds.
■ Course is on southern outskirts of town, 4m W of junction 42 of M6. Bus service from Carlisle station 2m. ADMISSION: Club £12 (OAPs & under-21s £9); Tattersalls £6 (OAPs & under-21s £3). CAR PARK: On rails £3; remainder free.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Yet Again (5.15) has been sent 346 miles by Miss Gay Kelleway from Whitcombe, Dorset.

2.15 EBF CROWTHER HOMES MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 6f

1 BAWSIAN J L Eyre 9 0 .... D Pears (3) 7
2 053 BURNT YATES (14) M W Easterby 9 0 .... 7 Lucas 2
3 6 CHEROKEE CHARLIE (7) R Craggs 9 0 .... Dean McKeown 10
4 EMPIRE PARK M Johnston 8 0 .... J Weaver 1
5 2 PANAMA HOUSE (16) T Easterby 9 0 .... L Charnock 8
6 TWO WILLIAMS M W Easterby 8 0 .... Dale Gibson 9
7 WATCHMAN 7 Tate 9 0 .... N Connorton S
8 DOUBS DREAM Mrs A Swinbank 8 9 .... N Day 4
9 ELOQUENT Sir M Prescott 8 9 .... G Duffield 8
10 0 ELSINORE (22) Mrs J Ramsden 8 9 .... J Fortune 8
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 12-8 Eloquent, 9-4 Burnt Yates, 9-2 Panama House, 13-2 Empire Park, 10-1 Elsinore, 10-1 Bawsian, 20-1 Two Williams, 25-1 others

2.45 BBC RADIO CUMBRIA SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 6f

1 316000 NEEDLE MATCH (47) (D) J J O'Neill 4 9 10 .... J Carroll 6
2 125004 ULTRA BEET (21) (D) P Haslam 5 9 10 .... J Weaver 14 8
3 000-05 FORECAST (13) (D) K Morgan 4 9 5 .... Dale Gibson 6
4 000035 HERE COMES A STAR (6) (C) (D) J Carr 9 9 5 .... A Culhane 4
5 006360 IMP EXPRESS (125) G M Moore 4 9 5 .... N Carlisle 1
6 00-050 KING OF SHOW (14) R Allan 6 9 5 .... R Ffrench (5) 11 V
7 0-0 SHARK (32) K Morgan 4 9 5 .... D Pears (3) 8
8 0/00-0 WILD PROSPECT (56) (CD) A Bailey 9 9 5 .... L Charnock 13
9 0000 LITTLE PAPOOSE (32) B McMahon 4 9 0 .... L Newton 9
10 00-032 MARINO STREET (13) P Evans 4 9 0 .... J Fortune 2
11 -00260 FINE TIMES (8) C Fairhurst 3 8 12 .... Dean McKeown 10 V
12 5030- MR FORTYWINKS (279) J L Eyre 3 8 12 .... F Lynch 3
13 454042 NERVOUS REX (13) W Muir 3 8 12 .... J Wilkinson (7) 15
14 000300 EXPRESS GIRL (7) D Moffatt 3 8 7 .... Darren Moffatt (3) 7
13 522300 TERRY'S ROSE (9) R Hollinshead 3 8 7 .... K Darley 12
– 15 declared –
BETTING: 4-1 Marino Street, 5-1 Ultra Beet, 11-2 Express Girl, 6-1 Nervous Rex, Terry's Rose, 8-1 Fine Times, 10-1 Needle Match, 14-1 Mr Fortywinks, Here Comes A Star, 16v Forecast, King Of Show, 20-1 Imp Express, 33-1 Wild Prospect, 50-1 others

3.15 EDMUNDSON ELECTRICAL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 7f

1 016142 ALLINSON'S MATE (18) (CD) (BF) T D Barron 9 9 10 .... Kimberley Hart (5) 3 8
2 0/0-00 CRISSEM (15) R Hollinshead 4 9 4 .... F Lynch 10
3 53211- FONZY (358) Mrs S Smith 3 8 13 .... D Pears (3) 4
4 0-3051 WINTER SCOUT (13) (C) R Fahey 9 8 13 .... R Winston (7) 8
5 023330 RYMER'S RASCAL (14) E Alston 5 8 13 .... A Culhane 5
6 032402 MR CUBE (8) (D) J M Bradley 7 8 4 .... R Ffrench (5) 1 8
7 400030 CEE-JAY-AY (14) (CD) J Berry 10 8 3 .... P Fessey (3) 8
8 060543 EURO SCEPTIC (9) (D) T Easterby 5 7 12 .... L Charnock 7
8 100-00 WELCOME LU (23) (D) J L Harris 4 7 10 .... Dale Gibson 8
10 000036 ORIEL LAD (14) (C) (D) Don Enrico Incisa 4 7 10 .... Kim Tinkler 2 8
– 10 declared –
Minimum weight 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Oriel Lad 7st 8lb.
BETTING: 11-4 Euro Sceptic, 7-2 Allinson's Mate, 9-2 Winter Scout, 5-1 Mr Cube, 8-1 Rymer's Rascal, 12-1 Oriel Lad, Cee-Jay-Ay, 16-1 Fonzy, Crissem, 20-1 Welcome Lu

3.45 CROWTHER HOMES CARLISLE BELL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1m

1 30-202 QUILLING (29) (BF) M Dods 5 9 13 .... C Teague (3) 12
2 00-302 LAY THE BLAME (7) M Hammond 4 9 10 .... A Culhane 9
3 200-42 BOLLIN FRANK (18) (D) (BF) 7 Easterby 5 8 9 .... L Charnock 7
4 25-305 RAED (14) Mrs A Swinbank 4 8 5 .... N Day 6
5 00-000 PRIDE OF PENDLE (19) (D) M Wane 8 8 5 .... J Carroll 14
6 52-064 RAINBOW RAIN (USA) (18) M Johnston 3 9 1 .... M Roberts 11
7 22-041 TOPATORI (14) M Tompkins 3 9 0 .... D Biggs 2
8 0-3010 KING ATHELSTAN (112) (D) B McMahon 9 8 11 .... S Righton (7) 4
9 0-5004 BULSARA (13) C Fairhurst 5 8 8 .... P Fessey (3) 13
10 506405 SPANISH VERDICT (13) (CD) D Smith 10 8 6 .... C Lowther (7) 8
11 -01004 THATCHED (9) (CD) R Barr 7 8 6 .... Dean McKeown 6
12 40-431 MURPHY'S GOLD (21) (D) (D) R Fahey 8 8 4 .... R Winston (7) 10
13 -00050 GILLING DANCER (16) (CD) P Calver 4 8 3 .... Darren Moffatt (3) 1
14 0-0331 BOWCLIFFE (18) (D) E Alston 6 8 3 .... G Duffield 3
15 0040-0 TALENTED TING (29) (D) P Haslam 8 7 13 .... R Ffrench (5) 15
– 15 declared –
BETTING: 6-1 Bollin Frank, 13-2 Rainbow Rain, 7-1 Murphy's Gold, 8-1 Topatori, Bowcliffe, Quilling, 10-1 Bulsara, Lay The Blame, 12-1 Pride Of Pendle, Spanish Verdict, 14-1 Thatched, King Athelstan, Raed, 16-1 Gilling Dancer, 25-1 Talented Ting

4.15 C. G. TRUCK HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 56f

1 030 FOREST SIGNAL (14) M Britain 9 7 .... D Mernagh (7) 4
2 50-010 TAILWIND (20) (D) W Muir 9 7 .... M Roberts 2
3 05-001 COURT EXPRESS (13) (CD) 7 Etherington 9 5 .... A Culhane 1
4 2155-0 TAZIBARI (9) O Moffatt 8 5 .... Darren Moffatt (3) 6
5 62-106 ROYAL CASCADE (20) (D) B McMahon 8 11 .... L Newton 8
6 -00050 BOLD BRIEF (19) D Smith 8 7 .... L Charnock 5
7 006060 LEGEND OF ARAGON (9) J Glover 8 6 .... G Duffield 6
8 00-441 PRIORY GARDENS (8) (D) J M Bradley 8 3 (7ex) .... R Ffrench (5) 7
– 6 declared –
BETTING: 9-4 Priory Gardens, 3-1 Court Express, 11-2 Tailwind, 6-1 Royal Cascade, Bold Brief, 12-1 Legend Of Aragon, 14-1 Tazibari, Forest Signal

4.45 KLOCKNER MOELLER MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2m 1f 52yds

1 50-04 EUPHORIC ILLUSION (9) Mrs S Smith 8 10 0 .... D Pears (3) 13
2 3-0602 OLD HUSH WING (1119) P Haslam 4 8 13 .... J Fortune 15
3 045044 WARRLIN (9) C Fairhurst 3 9 7 .... T Siddall (7) 11
4 000/0 PALACE RIVER (14) D Moffatt 9 9 5 .... L Charnock 5
5 00-636 ARISAIG (29) P Calver 3 9 1 .... Darren Moffatt (3) 3
6 0/0-00 HANCOCK (9) J Hetherton 5 8 12 .... R Ffrench (5) 8
7 -05045 MOORBIRD (18) J L Harris 3 8 12 .... P Fessey (3) 10 8
8 000005 SHIP'S DANCER (15) Don Enrico Incisa 4 8 10 .... Kim Tinkler 4 8
9 0060/0 BLACK ICE BOY (58) R Bastiman 6 8 10 .... Dean McKeown 2 8
10 8-5602 BRUZ (4) L Lungo 6 8 8 .... Dale Gibson 10
11 60-660 PENNY PEPPERMINT (9) R Barr 5 8 8 .... J Carroll 8
12 3340/0 MICK'S TYCOON (13) T Watson 8 8 7 .... G Duffield 12
13 600/ CULLIN CAPER (125) 7 Watson 5 8 7 .... T Williams 8
14 05/0-0 VALIANT DASH (9) J Goldie 11 8 5 .... J McAuley (7) 1
15 04-00 OCEAN BREEZE (29) J Wainwright 3 8 2 .... J Bramhill (5) 7
– 15 declared –
BETTING: 5-1 Warrlin, 11-2 Euphoric Illusion, 8-1 Bruz, Arisaig, 7-1 Old Hush Wings, 8-1 Hancock, 10-1 Cullin Caper, 12-1 Ocean Breeze, Moorbird, 14-1 Palace River, Valiant Dash, 20-1 Penny Peppermint, 25-1 Ship's Dancer, 33-1 others

5.15 *CROWTHER HOMES LIMITED AMATEURS* STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f

1 161422 YET AGAIN (2) (D) (BF) Gay Kelleway 5 11 8 .... Mr T McCarthy 4
2 500301 HEIGHTH OF FAME (12) (D) J Hetherton 6 11 2 .... Mr J Byrne (4) 7
3 10000/ ABLE PLAYER (851) (D) K Drewry 10 11 0 .... Mr K Drewry (4) 3
4 000635 COIS NA FARRAIGE (14) (D) Miss L Perratt 4 11 0 .... Mr R Hale 6
5 024420 SHERQY (11) S Kettlewell 5 11 0 .... Mr A Balding 1
6 500-00 SO KEEN (21) A Bailey 4 11 0 .... Mr O B Shaw (4) 2
7 0000 INTERACTION (29) R Craggs 3 10 0 .... Mr O McPhail (4) 5
– 7 declared –
BETTING: 13-8 Sherqy, 7-4 Yet Again, 7-2 Heighth Of Fame, 10-1 Coise Na Farraige, 16-1 Able Player, 25-1 So Keen, 50-1 Interaction

EPSOM

HYPERION
6.40 Calchas 7.10 Sovereigns Court (nb) 7.40 ARABIAN STORY (nap) 8.10 Alarico 8.40 Natalia Bay 9.10 Kildee Lad

GOING: Good (penetrometer 3.6). STALLS: 6f – outside; 1m 4f – centre; rest – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f; Low from 7f to 10f.
■ Left-hand course, sharp and undulating. Straight 5f is the fastest in the country.
■ Course is S of town. Stations at Epsom, Epsom Downs and Tattenham Corner. ADMISSION: Members £15 (16 to 25-year-olds £12); Grandstand & Paddock £10; Lonsdale Enclosure £5 (accompanied under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free.
■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: R Hannon — 15 winners from 128 runners gives a success ratio of 11.7% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £64.09; R Akehurst — 11 winners, 78 runners, 14.1%, +£3.93; J Dunlop — 8 winners, 38 runners, 21.1%, -£10.65; Lord Huntingdon — 7 winners, 22 runners, 31.8%, +£22.05.
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery — 19 winners, 100 rides, 19%, -£18.79; L Dettori — 14 winners, 88 rides, 15.9%, -£14.28; M Roberts — 13 winners, 72 rides, 18.1%, +£43.23; J Reid — 11 winners, 92 rides, 12%, -£32.90.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Star Profile (visored) (8.40).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Calchas (6.40) won at Wolverhampton on Wednesday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Sovereigns Court (7.10) has been sent 162 miles by L G Cottrell from Dulford, Devon.

6.40 EBF NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) £4,500 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £3,111 SKY

1 1 CALCHAS (7) (Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum) Sir M Prescott 9 4 .... R Hills 1
2 31 INDIAN MISSILE (12) (Khalil Alsayegh) J Dunlop 9 4 .... Dane O'Neill 2
3 1 OVERTURE (12) (J A Lazzari) R Hannon 9 4 .... R Hughes 5
4 060 BASIC STYLE (35) (Martin Moore) N Callaghan 8 12 .... W Ryan 3
5 5 WATHBAT LION (38) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) M Jarvis 8 12 .... S Sanders 4
– 5 declared –
BETTING: 7-4 Calchas, 2-1 Indian Missile, 9-4 Overture, 10-1 Wathbat Lion, 20-1 Basic Style
1996: no corresponding meeting

FORM GUIDE
Calchas stormed home by six lengths on his debut at Wolverhampton from Bernardo Bellotto, who had shown a consistent level of form in his previous three starts, and had actually finished in front of a Royal Ascot winner when runner-up on his debut at Kempton on March. A colt by Warning out of a Sadler's Wells mare, Calchas should have learned from last week's introduction. He recorded a fair time and can go on to better things. **Indian Missile**, the first two-year-old to run for John Dunlop this season, followed up his initial third to Shadow of Doubt (**Basic Style** eight lengths behind) when justifying favouritism at Chepstow. A line through the runner-up Blakeset, a place behind Bernado Bellotto two outings previously, leaves John Dunlop's runner with the best part of seven lengths and 5lb to make up with Calchas. Immediately after his win at Sandown over five furlongs, Richard Hannon said **Overture** would appreciate seven furlongs. The grey won a modest heat at Esher but could improve. **Wathbat Lion** was beaten more than ten lengths when fifth of 14 to Alconleigh over six furlongs at Ripon on easy ground. **Selection:** CALCHAS

7.10 EVENING STANDARD HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 7f Penalty Value £3,501 SKY

1 000-05 HARD TO FIGURE (21) (CD) (J W Mursell) R Hodges 11 10 0 .... S Drowne 11
2 066624 STOPPES BROW (21) (D) (C J Pennick) G L Moore 5 9 11 .... D O'Donohoe (3) 1 V
3 251400 VICTORY TEAM (9) (D) (R J Lavelle) G Balding 5 9 9 .... R Hughes 3
4 0400-0 KIND OF LIGHT (53) (D) (Mrs B Mills) R Guest 4 9 8 .... P Bloomfield 5
5 26-060 HALOWING (USA) (41) (Astrop Stud) J G Smyth-Osbourne 3 9 7 .... S Sanders 10
6 10-050 IMPULSIF (19) (D) (Mrs Mary Moloney) D French Davis 3 8 13 .... W Ryan 2
7 234-06 FIONN DE COOL (22) (Canisbay Bloodstock Ltd) R Akehurst 6 8 12 .... 7 Quinn 8
8 000000 ZURS (12) (Nigel Dearman) Gay Kelleway 4 8 12 .... R Mullen (5) 14
8 120154 PURCHASING POWER (13) (D) (M Tabor/Mrs J Magnier) N Callaghan 3 8 9 .... Pat Eddery 12
10 02-000 SOVEREIGNS COURT (9) (E Gadsden/Mrs M Fairburn) L G Cottrell 4 8 9 .... D Holland 8
11 653013 TWIN CREEKS (9) (D) (Armchair Jockeys-Four Seasons) V Soane 6 8 9 .... C Rutter 6
12 504050 KINGCHIP BOY (7) (CD) (Four Jays Racing Partnership) M Ryan 8 6 7 .... G Carter 13 8
13 -00254 NEWLANDS CORNER (11) (The Jolly Skaters) J Akehurst 4 8 5 .... Dane O'Neill 4 8
14 -03020 ED'S FOLLY (21) (Eddie Davess) S Dow 4 8 5 .... J Quinn 7
– 14 declared –
BETTING: 7-2 Purchasing Power, 11-2 Impulsif, 7-1 Twin Creeks, 8-1 Fionn De Cool, 10-1 Stoppes Brow, Zurs, Kingchip Boy, 12-1 Newlands Corner, 16-1 Hard To Figure, Kind Of Light, Halowing, Ed's Folly, Sovereigns Court, 20-1 others

FORM GUIDE
PURCHASING POWER is on the same mark as when beaten at Newmarket and Sandown on his last two starts, but is up against well exposed types who are mostly disappointing. Purchasing Power made a bold attempt to make all here in April when he found the extended mile just beyond him, but still finished a creditable second to La Modiste, beaten only a length and a half. **Kingchip Boy**, not far behind Purchasing Power in April, has been dropped 10lb since on account of some bad runs, and is therefore weighted to reverse Epsom form with the selection. **Zurs** has been dropped 19lb since April when far from disgraced in eighth place, five lengths behind the winner, Chickawicka, at Newmarket's Craven meeting. This horse is hard to win with, but Epsom often suits his type. Among those out of form are **Hard To Figure**, **Kind Of Light** and **Victory Team**, who can't be expected to beat Zurs again at these weights, after finishing a length in front of him at Newbury in May. **Selection:** PURCHASING POWER

7.40 GALA STAKES (Listed) (CLASS A) £16,250 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £11,159 SKY

1 102-61 ARABIAN STORY (18) (C) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 4 9 4 .... L Dettori 1
2 /0-313 CAP JULUCA (18) (D) (Martin Myers) R Charlton 5 9 4 .... R Hughes 4
3 14-222 CHARLOTTE CORDAY (15) (BF) (A E Oppenheimer) G Wragg 4 8 13 .... M Hills 2
4 11-124 AMID ALBADU (USA) (18) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 3 8 6 .... R Hills 3
– 4 declared –
BETTING: 7-4 Arabian Story, 9-4 Charlotte Corday, 3-1 Cap Juluca, 8-1 Amid Albadu

FORM GUIDE
CHARLOTTE CORDAY might have benefited from a stronger pace when runner-up to Samara over a mile here last time, but should have the race run to suit this time. One likely front-runner is in-form **Arabian Story**. Frankie Dettori's mount could be called the winner from a long way out when making all in a competitive handicap on Derby day. He has won here on his last two visits over a mile and a half, and attempts to underline his versatility over this shorter trip. **Cap Juluca** also likes to force the pace and acquitted himself well when hanging on to third place behind Polar Prince and Faithful Son in the Diomed Stakes the same afternoon, with **Amid Albadu** a length behind. Roger Charlton's runner won over this trip previously and it should suit him better, but Charlotte Corday has him three lengths behind over Ascot's round mile in April. **Selection:** CHARLOTTE CORDAY

8.10 UBS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £3,518 SKY

1 6-0451 ANCIENT QUEST (14) (D) (Midcourts) N Callaghan 4 10 0 .... Paul Eddery 6
2 400-01 MR BROWNING (USA) (22) (D) (Mrs M E O'Shea) R Akehurst 6 9 8 .... T Quinn 10 8
3 020443 AT LIBERTY (18) (D) (Bruce Adams) R Hannon 5 9 6 .... Dane O'Neill 8 8
4 2-0002 STATAJACK (16) (CD) (BF) (Mrs M E Slade) D Elsworth 9 9 5 .... Pat Eddery 1 8
5 00-136 ALARICO (FR) (11) (A Mrs Jonn Poyntord) I Williams 4 9 3 .... L Dettori 2
6 000263 OBERONS BOY (9) (Terry Shepherd) S Dow 4 8 13 .... W Ryan S
7 -32121 GLOW FORUM (32) (D) (Miss J O Anstee) L Montague Hall 8 8 7 .... D O'Donohoe (3) 7
8 0-0400 DOUBLE RUSH (11) (Tony Murray) T Mills 5 8 1 .... J Quinn 6
9 /0-002 COURAGEOUS KNIGHT (15) (L Kirkwood) P Hayward 8 8 0 .... M Henry (3) 4
10 004342 CHIEF PREDATOR (11) (Scott Trower Partnership) R Hannon 3 7 10 .... G Bardwell 9 8
– 10 declared –
Minimum weight 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Chief Predator 7st 7lb.
BETTING: 11-4 Mr Browning, 4-1 Ancient Quest, 11-2 Glow Forum, 8-1 Statajack, 10-1 At Liberty, Chief's Predator, Alarico, 14-1 Double Rush, 16-1 Oberons Boy, 20-1 Courageous Knight

FORM GUIDE
MR BROWNING has gone up 6lb for making all at Brighton last time. **Oberons Boy** is 6lb better for 14 lengths and has run adequately at the same track in the meantime. Mr Browning should handle the track and appears to be finding a bit of form. **Glow Forum** is on a 21lb lower mark than when beating Ground Game over this trip on the all-weather surface last time. Her best form on the turf has been on easy ground. **Ancient Quest** won over this trip with an identical weight at Newmarket last time from Yet Again, who has run well in defeat since. From Neville Callaghan's in-form yard, the topweight is racing off only a 3lb higher rating and could have further improvement in him. **At Liberty** did not perform well on his last visit to Epsom 12 months ago but does have form on undulating tracks. **Selection:** MR BROWNING

8.40 EPSOM & EWELL HERALD STAKES (CLASS C) £7,325 added 3YO fillies 1m 114yds Penalty Value £4,428

1 155-03 STAR PROFILE (23) (Godolphin) Saeed bin Suroor 9 0 .... L Dettori 2 V
2 214- DRAGONADA (USA) (242) (BF) (Niarchos Family) H Cecil 8 12 .... W Ryan 3
3 124-62 NATALIA BAY (23) (Philip Blacker Studio Partnership) P Cole 8 8 .... T Quinn 1
– 3 declared –
BETTING: 5-4 Natalia Bay, 7-4 Dragonada, 5-2 Star Profile

FORM GUIDE
NATALIA BAY may have been flattered to finish within six lengths of Among Men in a falsely-run race at Kempton, but Paul Cole's filly has shown enough to take this. **Star Profile** may not have got the trip when a disappointing last of seven of Always Loyal in the French 1,000 run on soft ground. Since behind the selection at Leicester in a seven furlong race won in some style by Meshhed, Star Profile may improve as Godolphin's fortunes pick up, but *you wouldn't want to bank on it*. **Dragonada** was a beaten favourite when not beaten far on her last juvenile start on soft ground in Newbury's Radley Stakes last October. Her dam stayed a mile and a half so the Nureyev filly should be suited by her first venture beyond seven furlongs. **Selection:** NATALIA BAY

9.10 PRINCE'S STAND HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 6f Penalty Value £3,339

1 044106 SHARP PEARL (23) (Dennis Yardy) P R Webber 4 10 0 .... R Hughes 1 8
2 0400-0 ROCK SYMPHONY (9) (D) (Phil Costello) W Haggas 7 9 12 .... M Hills 2
3 002056 KILDEE LAD (11) (D) (J F O'Donovan) A P Jones 7 9 10 .... 7 Sprake 4
4 000110 IVORY'S GRAB HIRE (9) (D) (Dean Ivory) K Ivory 4 9 7 .... Martin Dwyer (3) 8 8
5 60-600 PAPITA (44) (D) (G Steinberg) S Dow 3 9 1 .... W Ryan 6
6 00-203 MARENGO (9) (J B Sharp) J Akehurst 3 8 13 .... D Holland 7
7 650312 TEAR WHITE (9) (BF) (A W Lawson & Co Ltd) 7 Mills 3 8 12 .... 7 Quinn 5
8 0-0020 THE FUGATIVE (14) (J A Redmond) P Mitchell 4 8 2 .... S Sanders 6
9 323642 JUSTINIANUS (5) (D) (M R Pascall) J Bridger 5 7 12 .... G Bardwell 8
– 9 declared –
BETTING: 7-2 The Fugative, 4-1 Justinianus, 5-1 Marengo, 6-1 Tear White, 13-2 Ivory's Grab Hire, 9-1 Papita, 10-1 Kildee Lad, 12-1 Rock Symphony, Sharp Pearl

FORM GUIDE
Hampered last time out when finishing eighth to Barranak at Salisbury, the time before **THE FUGATIVE** divided Songsheet and Runs In The Family at Folkestone. The third gave that form a timely boost yesterday. **Marengo** is closely weighted with **Tear White** on recent Brighton form and appears to be running into form. **Justinianus** has gone close on his last two starts, the latest being at Goodwood last Friday when chasing home surprise winner, Arnie, who showed much improved form wearing blinkers for the first time. That was a fair run as Justinianus's rider put up 4lb overweight and the combination was beaten barely a length. A winning plater on the all-weather, Justinianus has had his chances since but is in good nick at present. **Selection:** THE FUGATIVE

CHESTER

HYPERION
6.50 Break The Rules 7.20 Kathryn's Pet 7.50 Selhurstpark Flyer 8.20 Pure Coincidence 8.50 High Intrigue 9.20 Baritone

GOING: Good to Soft.
STALLS: Straight – inside; except 1m 2f – stands side.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best.
■ Left-hand, tight, circular course.
■ Course in city centre on A548. Station 1m. ADMISSION: Club £16; Tattersalls £10; Dee Stand £4; Course £2. CAR PARK: £2.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Steal 'Em (visored), Thenorthernplayboy (6.50).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Selhurstpark Flyer (7.50) won at Ascot on Friday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: West Bumble (7.50) has been sent 238 miles by Lady Herries from Angmering Park, W Sussex.

6.50 CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 2f 75yds SKY

1 31-114 BREAK THE RULES (11) (CD) (BF) M Pipe 5 9 12 .... K Darley 2
2 0-0520 WHITTLE ROCK (18) (C) Mrs M Reveley 4 9 7 .... A Culhane 3
3 0/00- THENORTHERNPLAYBOY (438) T Wall 4 8 2 .... D Griffiths (3) 8 8
4 60-000 STEAL 'EM (9) (C) A Bailey 4 9 0 .... P Roberts (5) 5 V
5 034602 NICOLA'S PRINCESS (7) B McMahon 4 8 13 .... M Wigham 4
8 0-3 TARAGONA (14) R Hollinshead 4 8 10 .... F Lynch 1
– 6 declared –
BETTING: 4-7 Break The Rules, 5-2 Whittle Rock, 10-1 Taragona, 12-1 Steal 'Em, Nicola's Princess, 25-1 Thenorthernplayboy

7.20 HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 fillies & mares 1m 4f 66yds SKY

1 0-6122 ROUFONTAINE (12) (D) (BF) W Muir 8 10 0 .... M Roberts 4
2 632000 RASAYEL (7) (CD) (BF) P D Evans 7 9 10 .... R Ffrench (5) 1
3 150 MANAZIL (11) R Armstrong 3 9 4 .... R Price 8
4 11 DOMINANT DUCHESS (85) J Hills 3 9 3 .... A Clark 5
5 -14223 KATHRYN'S PET (26) (D) Mrs M Reveley 4 8 11 .... A Culhane 2
6 54-5 TOI TOI (97) O Arbuthnot 3 8 10 .... S Whitworth 6
– 8 declared –
BETTING: 11-4 Kathryn's Pet, 3-1 Dominant Duchess, 4-1 Roufontaine, 5-1 Manazil, 7-1 Toi Toi, 8-1 Rasayel

7.50 LE PRIX RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £15,000 added 6f SKY

1 2043-0 MY MELODY PARKES (71) J Berry 4 9 7 .... K Darley 8
2 0-2231 SELHURSTPARK FLYER (5) (D) J Berry 8 9 6 (3ex) .... P Roberts (5) 3
3 026-00 MADLY SHARP (12) (D) J W Watts 6 9 4 .... G Duffield 12
4 05-025 TADEO (22) M Johnston 4 9 4 .... M Roberts 11
5 153-40 WEST HUMBLE (12) Lady Herries 4 9 1 .... A Clark 4
6 -46050 WESTCOURT MAGIC (12) (D) M W Easterby 4 8 13 .... M Wigham 7
7 0-0040 TAOISTE (25) R Armstrong 4 8 8 .... R Price 9
8 220014 ZIGGY'S DANCER (16) (C) (D) E Alston 6 8 8 .... R Lappin 2
8 311115 GADGE (21) (D) (BF) A Bailey 6 8 7 .... D Wright 8
10 0-0000 CHARLIE SILLETT (35) (D) B Hills 5 8 7 .... J D Smith (3) 1
11 406200 SWINO (4) P D Evans 3 8 2 .... R Ffrench (5) 10
12 00-065 BLUES QUEEN (23) (D) M Channon 3 8 0 .... P P Murphy (3) 5
– 11 declared –
Minimum: 8st 7lb (3yo 8st). True weights: Gadge 8st 5lb, Charlie Sillett 8st 3lb.
BETTING: 9-4 Selhurstpark Flyer, 5-1 Tadeo, 6-1 Madly Sharp, 7-1 West Humble, 10-1 Ziggy's Dancer, My Melody Parkes, Gadge, Charlie Sillett, 12-1 Blues Queen, 14-1 Taoiste, Swino, Westcourt Magic

8.20 WIDOW NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 5f SKY

1 4112 SANDSIDE (21) (D) J Berry 9 4 .... P Fessey (3) 2
2 51 PURE COINCIDENCE (12) (D) G Lewis 9 0 .... A Clark 8
3 04 DERNIER CROISE (FR) (9) B Meehan 8 12 .... M Tebbutt 6
4 3 JIMMY TOO (21) B McMahon 8 12 .... M Wigham 7
5 SUPER SNIP A Bailey 8 12 .... K Darley 1
8 1 PICCOLO CATIVO (48) (D) J H Wilson 8 3 .... Angela Hartley (7) 5
7 PHANTOM RING A Bailey 8 7 .... M Roberts 4
– 7 declared –
BETTING: 5-2 Pure Coincidence, 11-4 Sandside, 4-1 Dernier Croise, 6-1 Phantom Ring, 8-1 Super Snip, 9-1 Jimmy Too, 12-1 Piccolo Cativo

8.50 PONSARDIN MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 5f 89yds

1 000-00 ETERNAL HOST (6) R Hollinshead 9 0 .... D Griffiths (3) 1
2 '6-4 HIGH INTRIGUE (14) H Cecil 8 0 .... A McGlone 3
3 432650 SPONDULICKS (29) B Baugh 9 0 .... G Hind 2
– 3 declared –
BETTING: 1-12 High Intrigue, 12-1 Spondulicks, 14-1 Eternal Host

9.20 RICH RESERVE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 7f

1 421 WOODBECK (25) (D) J Glover 9 7 .... N Day 10
2 02030- NOMINATOR LAD (237) B McMahon 9 5 .... M Wigham 2
3 606400 I CAN'T REMEMBER (21) (CD) P D Evans 9 4 .... R Ffrench (5) 4
4 1123 ROCK ISLAND LINE (5) (D BF) J Berry 9 0 .... P Roberts (5) 9
5 -62000 BARITONE (11) J W Watts 9 0 .... P Fessey (3) 6
6 00-106 JANIE'S BOY (14) Mrs J Cecil 8 13 .... G Duffield 3
7 560-62 DAVIS ROCK (11) W Muir 8 10 .... M Roberts 5
8 60-104 MUSCATANA (21) (D) B Hills 8 7 .... J D Smith (3) 7
9 550322 C-HARRY (12) (D) (BF) R Hollinshead 8 3 .... F Lynch 1
10 00-605 GABLESEA (8) B Baugh 8 3 .... G Hind 8
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 4-1 Baritone, 5-1 Janie's Boy, 6-1 Rock Island Line, C-Harry, Davis Rock, 7-1 I Can't Remember, Woodbeck, 10-1 Muscatana, 16-1 others

HAMILTON

HYPERION
7.00 Goretski 7.30 Iris May 8.00 Scaraben 8.30 Belle Bijou 9.00 Eponine 9.30 Grovefair Lad

GOING: Soft. STALLS: 5f & 6f – far side; 1m 7 1m 1f – inside; 1m 3f & 1m 4f – stands side.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f and 6f.
■ Right-hand undulating course with pear-shaped loop.
■ Course is N of town on B7071. Hamilton West station 1m. ADMISSION: Club £12; Grandstand and Paddock £7 (£4 for OAPs, disabled & students, £10 for couples); CAR PARK: Free.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Midas Man (7.00); She's A Winner (8.00); William Wallace (visored) (9.30).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Principal Boy (8.00) won here on Wednesday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Mary Lou (7.30), Rare Talent (8.30) & Eponine (9.00) have been sent 370 miles by M Channon from Upper Lambourn, Berks.

7.00 SCOTTISH RIFLES APPRENTICE SERIES HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 5f

1 201002 MANOLO (7) (D) (BF) J Berry 4 10 0 .... C Lowther (5) 7
2 001211 GORETSKI (12) (CD) N Tinkler 4 9 11 .... P Fredericks (7) 9
3 030422 STOLEN KISS (6) (D) (BF) M W Easterby 5 9 11 .... G Parkin (3) 10 8
4 513006 IMPISH (9) (CD) T Etherington 3 8 11 .... J Bramhill (3) 6
5 463024 KID ORY (9) O Chapman 6 8 9 .... D Sweeney (3) S 6
6 -62605 SUNDAY MAIL TOO (14) (CD) Miss L Perratt 5 8 3 .... Iona Wands (5) 4
7 060504 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE (7) (CD) R McKellar 5 8 1 .... J McAuley (7) 6
8 006064 DIET (7) (CD) Miss L Perratt 11 7 12 .... Jenny Benson (7) 1 V
9 003000 RAGTIME COWGIRL (5) D Nolan 4 7 10 .... N Pollard (7) 11
10 60000- AYE READY (326) D Nolan 4 7 10 .... K Sked (5) 6
11 00-006 MIDAS MAN (7) D Nolan 6 7 10 .... P Bradley (7) 2 8
– 11 declared –
Minimum weight 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Ragtime Cowgirl 7st 9lb, Aye Ready 7st 4lb, Midas Man 6st 13lb.
BETTING: 15-8 Goretski, 4-1 Stolen Kiss, 11-2 Another Nightmare, 6-1 Impish, 7-1 Manolo, 10-1 Kid Ory, Sunday Mail Too, 10-1 Diet, 20-1 Ragtime Cowgirl, 33-1 others

7.30 MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (Qualifier) (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2YO fillies 6f

1 22 IRIS MAY (11) J Berry 8 8 .... 7 E Durcan (5) 6
2 23650 FLOWER O'CANNIE (9) M W Easterby 8 8 .... G Parkin (5) 2
3 66 FRISKY LADY (26) T Easterby 8 3 .... L Charnock 4
4 0 MARY LOU (9) M Channon 8 3 .... J Carroll 3
5 6645 MARSKE MACHINE (23) N Tinkler 8 2 .... Dale Gibson 1
– 5 declared –
BETTING: 4-6 Iris May, 5-2 Mary Lou, 11-2 Frisky Lady, 7-1 Flower O'Cannie, 10-1 Marske Machine

8.00 STRATHCLYDE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 1m 1f 36yds

1 /0501- WESTERN GENERAL (319) (C) Miss M Milligan 6 9 10 .... J Weaver 3
2 01-434 SCARABEN (14) (C) S Kettlewell 9 9 9 .... J Fortune 2
3 40-013 MENTALASANYTHIN (36) (C) (D) D Haydn Jones 8 9 2 .... J Carroll 4
4 001221 PRINCIPAL BOY (7) (CD) T Etherington 4 8 1 (5ex) .... Dale Gibson 1
– 4 declared –
BETTING: 11-8 Scaraben, 11-4 Mentalasanythin, 3-1 Principal Boy, 5-1 Western General

8.30 CAMERONIANS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 3f 16yds

1 6324 RARE TALENT (39) M Channon 9 7 .... J Carroll 5
2 06-061 FANTAIL (30) (D) M Tompkins 9 7 .... D Biggs 1
3 621140 BABY JANE (13) B Mactaggart 8 8 .... Dean McKeown 4
4 0-106 BELLE BIJOU (14) M Johnston 8 6 .... J Weaver 2
5 66-040 NINTH SYMPHONY (14) P Haslam 8 2 .... L Charnock 3
– 6 declared –
BETTING: 13-8 Fantail, 5-2 Belle Bijou, 3-1 Rare Talent, 8-1 Ninth Symphony, 10-1 Baby Jane

9.00 HYNDFORD CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 4f

1 241025 GOLDEN THUNDERBOLT (6) N Tinkler 4 9 13 .... Doubtful 3
2 -04231 ROYAL EXPRESSION (15) (C) Mrs M Reveley 5 9 8 .... J Fortune 4
3 /23104 SUN MARK (21) (CD) Mrs A Swinbank 6 9 5 .... J Weaver 1
4 303-00 CRAIGARY (26) Mrs A Swinbank 6 9 3 .... T E Durcan (5) 8 8
5 4106-0 MONACO GOLD (7) (C) Mrs M Reveley 5 9 1 .... S Copp (5) 5
6 00-300 SHE'S A WINNER (9) (C) P Monteith 4 8 10 .... J Bramhill (5) 2 8
7 034135 EPONINE (11) M Channon 3 8 2 .... J Carroll 7
– 7 declared –
BETTING: 7-4 Eponine, 2-1 Royal Expression, 100-30 Sun Mark, 8-1 Monaco Gold, 16-1 She's A Winner, 20-1 Craigary

9.30 STONEHOUSE MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1m 65yds

1 0-04 GENERAL MONTY (23) T D Barron 5 10 0 .... Victoria Appleby (7) 2
2 0-007 TRYING TIMES (14) J Berry 4 9 9 .... 7 E Durcan (5) 5
3 -56400 WILLIAM WALLACE (14) D Haydn Jones 3 9 3 .... J Carroll 3 V
4 0300-0 KATIE KOMAITE (100) J H Wilson 4 8 12 .... J Fortune 4
5 -40004 GROVEFAIR LAD (7) M Wane 3 8 6 .... J McAuley (7) 7
6 0000-0 CHANSON D'AMOUR (4) Miss L Perratt 3 8 5 .... C Lowther (7) 11
7 40-60 KALOUSION (15) T Etherington 3 8 5 .... M Gallagher 8
8 00-05 GADROON (4) P Haslam 3 8 3 .... L Charnock 1
9 030665 SWEET NOTE (7) Miss L Perratt 3 8 0 .... N Kennedy 6
10 054 NORTHERN MAESTRO (12) Mrs M Reveley 3 7 12 .... Dale Gibson 8
11 000000 SILENT SYSTEM (5) D Chapman 4 7 10 .... Iona Wands (5) 10 8
– 11 declared –
BETTING: 100-30 William Wallace, 9-2 Grovefair Lad, 11-2 Trying Times, 13-2 Katie Komaite, 8-1 General Monty, 10-1 Silent System, 12-1 Northern Maestro, 14-1 Gadroon, 16-1 Chanson D'Amour, Kalousion, 20-1 Sweet Note

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Gamble on Transom

Transom was heavily backed yesterday for Saturday's Northumberland Plate Handicap at Newcastle. Amanda Perrett's charge was cut from 14-1 to 7-1 by the Tote and from 14-1 to 8-1 by Coral. Shaft Of Light was also well backed – from 20-1 to 12-1 – with Coral.

Simon Clare, Coral's spokesman, said: "Everyone from the big hitters to the 50p customers wanted to get on either Transom or Shaft Of Light, and we laid both to lose tens of thousands of pounds"

LATEST NORTHUMBERLAND PLATE BETTING

Horse	Coral	Hills	Tote
Windsor Castle	7-2	4-1	3-1
Top Cees	6-1	6-1	6-1
Transom	8-1	10-1	7-1
Shaft Of Light	12-1	10-1	9-1
Snow Princess	10-1	10-1	10-1
Embryonic	12-1	10-1	12-1
Sweetness Herself	10-1	12-1	12-1
Flirting Around	9-1	12-1	14-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, 1, 2, 3, 4. (Newcastle, Saturday)

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NATWEST TR
Scots by W and Tr
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NATWEST TROPHY FIRST ROUND: Gloucestershire pair shatter records while first-class counties easily contain minor rivals

Scots sunk by Wright and Trainor

PHIL SHAW

reports from Bristol
Gloucestershire 351-2
Scotland 250-9
Gloucestershire win by 101 runs

A week earlier, when 25 wickets tumbled in a day and a half during the four-day game against Middlesex, the Nevil Road scoreboard had to shut down after blowing a fuse. Yesterday, as Gloucestershire piled on the runs – and the discomfort for Scotland – it was the record-keepers who were in danger of self-combusting.

The men responsible for their repeated burrowing in the history books were Tony Wright and Nick Trainor. The Gloucestershire openers, who have mustered a solitary half-century between them in the Championship, amassed 311 for the first wicket as the visitors were set 352 to win. The Scots fell 101 runs short, yet were anything but deflowered after a reply of 250 for 9 that included stylish innings by Mike Smith and Bruce Patterson.

Scotland, who have qualified for the World Cup finals in 1999 since Jim Love took over as coach, batted like an emerging nation until Tim Hancock belatedly tore through them to finish 6 for 58. Unfortunately they had bowled like a minor county, allowing Wright and Trainor to overcome a tentative start.

After scraping only 15 off the first 10 overs, they moved comfortably past a succession of landmarks. The 34-year-old Wright, who offered only one chance before falling in the final over, hit 177; his top score in one-day cricket was also Gloucestershire's best in the competition and the fourth highest by any player in the NatWest's various guises.

For Trainor, a 21-year-old Geordie, his 143 was a career best. When the pair passed 165, they posted a Gloucestershire record for any wicket in the tournament. On reaching 270, their partnership became the best for the first wicket in NatWest history. They had just overhauled the highest tally for any wicket in the competition – 309 by Worcestershire's Tim Curtis and Tom Moody in the 1994 semi-final – when Trainor skied Peter Steindl into extra cover's hands in the 57th over. Wright soon followed in similar fashion.

However, Scotland's early order had seen enough in a benign track to encourage some attractive stroke-making. Smith and Patterson put on 135 at more than four an over.

A brilliant leg-side stumping by Jack Russell eventually removed Smith, the first of Hancock's half dozen (another personal best). Love was unrequited, though there was still time for another record. Scotland's total taking them past their competition best of 245 for 2 against Somerset five years ago.

Head start: Buckhamingshire's Denzil Owen tries to cut off a shot from Nasser Hussain at Beaconsfield yesterday Photograph: Robert Hallam

Rollins keeps Buckinghamshire at bay

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Beaconsfield
Essex 327-7
Buckinghamshire

The huge gulf between first class and Minor County cricket may not have been successfully bridged at Wilton Park, but Buckinghamshire emerged from their game against Essex with plenty of credit. They stuck to it in the field and for a time mounted a spirited reply.

First, they put Essex in, which may have been partly to ensure that the *game stretched* into the early evening, and partly to give their attack the outside chance of embarrassing Essex.

Although their bowlers did not manage it, Denzil Owen and Simon Stanway produced accurate first spells and did not allow Essex to run away with it. Owen, a jolly 41-year-old truck driver from Jamaica, wore an extraordinary white concoction on his head that would have been better suited to Ladies' Day at Ascot and apparently has Rastafarian associations.

From the southern end of this delightful ground, he bowled his first 10 overs for 40 runs at a brisk medium, while the captain, Tim Scriven, later helped with his orthodox left-arm spin bowled from round the wicket with a nice high action. Then, Andy Clarke, who has bowled for Sussex and Derbyshire, contributed some highly respectable leg-breaks.

With 10 overs to go, Essex were 220 for 5 and Buckinghamshire had every reason to be satisfied, not least with their excellent fielding, which included a fine catch at long-on by Richard Hurd. But then came Robert Rollins who, in a remarkable exhibition of off and straight driving, hit seven sixes and three fours in making 67 not out off 26 balls and he took Essex well past 300. Owen's last two overs cost 41 runs.

Buckinghamshire's openers, Hurd and Matthew Bowyer, were not in the least daunted by the huge target or the reputation of the bowlers. They put on 43 good runs in 14 overs before Hurd drove Peter Such to wide mid-on. There followed a stirring stand of 74 in 13 overs between Bowyer and Neil Burns, who has come to Buckinghamshire by way of Essex, Western Province and Somerset.

Bowyer is a lovely, upright stroke-maker, while Burns, who is left-handed, is more of an opportunist. Their stand peaked when they hit eight fours in two overs: three to Bowyer off Such and five to Burns off Ronnie Irani. They both perished shortly before tea and Keith Arthurton, lately of the West Indies, and currently of High Wycombe and Buckinghamshire, was fourth out, caught at deep cover soon after the interval, Buckinghamshire's challenge inevitably faded.

Dutch double act put up fight

ADAM SZRETER

reports from Worcester
Worcestershire 336-6
Netherlands 225
Worcestershire win by 111 runs

A lazy day's cricket by The Severn was shaken briefly from its slumbers by two men from Rotterdam who caused England more than a little concern in Peshawar last year.

Bas Zuiderent and Klaas-Jan van Noortwijk put on 114 against Mike Atherton's team in the World Cup in Pakistan, a game which England only won thanks to a century by Worcestershire's Graeme Hick. Yesterday they fell four runs short of a century partnership and while it was always long odds against the Netherlands reaching their target they did at least put up a fight.

With his bright orange helmet glowing like a Belisha beacon, Zuiderent particularly caught the eye. He cut and drove handsomely, including violent straight sixes off Alamgir Sheriyar and Matthew Rawnsley. Van Noortwijk looked no less accomplished and it was a shame when he was run out for 25 after being called through for a risky single.

Zuiderent appeared to have put that error behind him as he moved on towards a well merited century.

But on 99 his judgement of a run deserted him again and he was run out by Reuben Spiring. Thereafter the batting gently subsided.

Earlier, Tom Moody, restored to full fitness after a recent virus, led Worcestershire's effort with 108 from 145 balls, including 14 fours, but it was not Hick's day. He drove lamely at Moody's Western Australian team-mate Murray Goodwin – the Netherlands' overseas recruit – and was caught in the covers by the Dutch captain, Tim de Leede, for seven.

The Dutch bowling left a little to be desired although the former Somerset and Glamorgan seamer, Roland Lefebvre, put in a tidy spell. The wicket-keeper, Marcel Schewe, looked very capable and pulled off a smart run out by collecting Rob van Oosterom's throw from the boundary and scoring a direct hit on the stumps at the other end to see off Gavin Haynes.

The Dutch by no means disgraced themselves but it is now almost 100 years since a team from the Netherlands led by Dr C J Gosthuma met the MCC, led by Dr W G Grace at Lords. It would be nice to say they have come a long way since then, but they haven't really.

Smith augments major pounding of minor

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Wisbech
Hampshire 321-4
Cambridgeshire 82
Hampshire win by 239 runs

A trip to Fenland can be a diverting business. The large horizons, interrupted by ditches, spires and warehouses, can disorientate and distance, like the difference between minor and first-class counties, ought to be measured in leagues. Certainly here, Cambridgeshire were not in the same one as Hampshire who crushed their hosts by 239 runs, the sixth heaviest defeat in the competition's history.

Minor counties live for days, if not results, like this. Each dreams of an upset that will give them their 15 column inches of fame. But as neither an incubator of young talent nor a provider of rigorous competition (only three batsmen managed to stagger into double figures here), their role in the new Strategic Plan, announced on 5 August, must be under threat.

Before the England and Wales Cricket Board's inception last January, the Minor Counties' Association received £660,000 in hand- outs. Unless they can contribute in pushing talent up the pyramid towards the England team at its apex, it is hard to envisage such payments continuing.

Comprising largely of part-timers – their fastest bowler, Chris Whyborn, is an officer in the RAF, while their steadiest, Tim Smith, farms Llamas in Hertfordshire – the home side had little power in preventing Hampshire's batsmen from taking the game out of their reach.

On a sluggish pitch, Matthew Hayden, who scored 90, and Robin Smith nudged stroked then bludgeoned their way to a second-wicket partnership worth 176 runs. Returning from a back injury, Smith, whose 126 won him the man of the match award, was comfortably the more domineering partner and despite conceding a 16-over start to the Australian, overtook him as each entered the 80s.

Hayden had clearly set himself the task of batting through the innings and his dismissal, caught and bowled by flying officer Whyborn with some eight overs to go, clearly irked.

Of course, the home side might well have had something more feasible to chase had Brad Donelan – one of two professionals – held on to a chance from Smith when the batsman was on two.

Until that moment, they had kept Hampshire on a fairly tight leash with some straight if paceless bowling from farmer Smith and Ajaz Akhtar. It was not the only aberration, and two further catches and a Caribbean amount of extras helped the visiting side to distance themselves even further.

Faced with such an enormous task, the home side's response was predictably weak. Hampshire are not the bowling superpower they used to be when Malcolm Marshall tore in off 35 yards, but their adherence to the basics of line and length was too much for their opponents on this pitch as John Stephenson, the Hampshire skipper, ended with a career-best 5 for 34.

Derbyshire put troubles aside

MIKE CAREY

reports from Lincoln
Lincolnshire 116
Derbyshire 121-2
Derbyshire win by eight wickets

Until the first ball was bowled (or rather the coin tossed) yesterday probably seemed as good a time as any for a Minor Counties side with giant-killing aspirations to play Derbyshire, with their minds supposedly distracted by all the off-the-field traumas of the past fortnight.

But events proved otherwise and apart from the expected confirmation of Phil DeFreitas as captain for the rest of the season, there was nothing to suggest a county in turmoil as Lincolnshire were beaten by eight wickets. Indeed, in the entire history of the competition, few sides can ever have had as many as 41 overs to spare.

Sadly, this meant only a late, modest flurry of excitement for a good sized crowd on a pleasant, well-organised and hospitable club ground. But the realists among the Lincolnshire side must have sensed that this was how it would be.

With three recent heavy defeats and no sort of batting form behind them, they desperately needed to bowl first on a pitch that bore a legacy of recent heavy rain; although it was nothing more malevolent than a slow, low seamer it demanded patience and positive footwork which Lincolnshire could not always produce.

The presence of low cloud cover on a humid morning completed their misfortune. DeFreitas moved the ball around from a full length, Devon Malcolm scarcely needed a sighter to locate a good off-stump line and from a position of 62 for 7 there was no hiding place.

Mark Gouldstone grafted on the front foot for 46 overs, but Paul Aldred cleaned up the lower order by bowling very straight, whereupon Chris Adams made an unbeaten 71 from 44 deliveries which made it all look deceptively easy on this pitch.

Even he had one moment of fortune at two when a backfoot force off Simon Oakes skimmed through cover's fingertips. After that, he hit six fours and four sixes, putting the ball away with the ruthless air of a man with a point to prove. As he had just spent yet another innings fielding away from his specialist position in the slips, perhaps be had.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

NatWest Trophy first round
One-day matches

Buckinghamshire v Essex
BEACONSFIELD: Essex beat Buckinghamshire by 89 runs.
Buckinghamshire won toss
ESSEX
*P J Prichard c Scriven b Percy 58
D D J Robinson c Burns b Owen 0
N Hussain c Owen b Arthurton 78
S G Law c Stanway b Clarke 14
R C Irani c Burns b Arthurton 28
A P Grayson c & b Arthurton 56
D R Law c Hurd b Arthurton 6
†R J Rollins not out 67
A P Cowan not out 3
Extras (lb3, w14) 17
Total (for 7, 60 overs) 327
Fall: 1-7, 2-130, 3-159, 4-172, 5-220, 6-232, 7-297.
Did not bat: M C Ilott, P M Such.
Bowling: Stanway 6-2-27-0; Owen 12-0-81-1; Scriven 12-2-58-0; Percy 7-0-35-1; Clarke 11-1-70-1; Arthurton 12-1-53-4.
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
R B Hurd c Prichard b Such 18
M Bowyer c Cowan b Grayson 43
†N D Burns b S G Law 51
K L R Arthurton c Hussain b Grayson 18
B B Percy c Hussain b Grayson 17
P Sawyer not out 32
C M Jaggard c Grayson b Cowan 28
A R Clarke c Rollins b Irani 0
*T G A Scriven not out 3
Extras (lb10, w14, nb4) 28
Total (for 7, 60 overs) 238
Fall: 1-43, 2-117, 3-127, 4-166, 5-166, 5-213, 7-215.
Did not bat: D M Owen, S F Stanway.
Bowling: Ilott 12-1-34-0; Cowan 10-1-35-1; Irani 7-0-31-1; Such 12-1-56-1; Grayson 11-0-40-3; S G Law 8-1-32-1.
Umpires: J H Hampshire and A Clarkson.

Cambridgeshire v Hants
WISBECH: Hampshire beat Cambridgeshire by 239 runs.
Hampshire won toss
HAMPSHIRE
J S Laney c Ajaz Akhtar b Ralfs 40
M L Hayden c & b Whyborn 90
R A Smith b Ralfs 126
M Keech run out 25
S D Udal not out 6
W S Kendall not out 0
Extras (b8, lb9, w15, nb2) 34
Total (for 4, 60 overs) 321
Fall: 1-77, 2-253, 3-297, 4-315.
Did not bat: *J P Stephenson, R J Maru, †A N Aymes, C A Connor, S J Renshaw.
Bowling: Whyborn 11-0-62-1; Ajaz Akhtar 11-3-44-0; Smith 12-2-44-0; Ralfs 12-1-69-2; Donelan 7-0-44-0; Gadsby 7-0-41-0.
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
R P Merriman c Aymes b Connor 11
S A Kellett lbw b Stephenson 10
G W Ecclestone run out 0
B Mohammed b Stephenson 7
*N T Gadsby lbw b Udal 1
B T P Donelan c Stephenson b Udal 3
Ajaz Akhtar b & b Stephenson 5
T S Smith c Renshaw b Udal 9
D F Ralfs not out 14
C M Whyborn b Stephenson 7
†C D Durant lbw b Stephenson 1
Extras (lb7, w3, nb4) 14
Total (38.2 overs) 82
Fall: 1-19, 2-19, 3-32, 4-33, 5-33, 6-43, 7-47, 8-60, 9-80.
Bowling: Connor 8-3-11-1; Renshaw 7-1-17-0; Udal 12-7-13-3; Stephenson 11.2-3-34-5.
Umpires: R A White and M R Benson.

Cumberland v Northants
BARROW: Northamptonshire beat Cumberland by 36 runs.
Northamptonshire won toss
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
M B Loye lbw b Sharp 19
†R J Warren c Dutton b Sharp 3
*R J Bailey c Mawson b Pennett 10
K M Curran c Clarke b Beech 21
A L Penberthy c Kippax b Pearson 57
T C Walton c Dutton b Scothern 6
D J G Sales c Kippax b Fielding 53
J N Snape c Knox b Kippax 5
K J Innes c Dutton b Pennett 25
J E Emburey b Pennett 1
J P Taylor not out 3
Extras (lb9, w11) 20
Total (58.4 overs) 223
Fall: 1-22, 2-33, 3-33, 4-50, 5-68, 6-152, 7-182, 8-210, 9-218.
Bowling: Pennett 9.4-1-42-3; Sharp 9-1-28-2; Scothern 12-1-50-1; Beech 5-0-21-1; Fielding 12-3-24-1; Kippax 9-0-50-2.
CUMBERLAND
D J Pearson b Curran 3
A D Mawson c Warren b Penberthy 77
S Knox c Warren b Penberthy 0
G J Clarke c Bailey b Penberthy 8
†S M Dutton c Bailey b Snape 38
P Beech c Walton b Curran 5
S J A Kippax c & b Penberthy 5
J M Fielding run out 5
D B Pennett c Snape b Penberthy 1
M D Scothern not out 23
M A Sharp not out 7
Extras (b2, lb2, w6, nb4) 14
Total (for 9, 60 overs) 187
Fall: 1-14, 2-20, 3-34, 4-100, 5-106, 6-114, 7-125, 8-126, 9-169.
Bowling: Taylor 10-1-40-0; Curran 12-4-31-2; Penberthy 11-2-56-5; Emburey 12-3-22-0; Bailey 3-0-12-0; Snape 12-4-22-1.
Umpires: B Leadbeater and M Johnson.

Devon v Leicestershire
EXMOUTH: Leicestershire beat Devon by 51 runs.
Leicestershire won toss
LEICESTERSHIRE
V J Wells b Warren 0
D L Maddy b Roebuck 15
I J Sutcliffe not out 103
*J J Whitaker lbw b Roebuck 12
N C Johnson st Read b Macgill 4
J M Dakin lbw b Donohue 6
†P A Nixon c Read b Donohue 1
T J Mason c & b Pugh 30
D J Parsons c Folland b Pugh 9
D J Millns not out 8
Extras (b10, lb17, w10, nb2) 39
Total (for 8, 60 overs) 225
Fall: 1-3, 2-43, 3-73, 4-78, 5-96, 6-99, 7-166, 8-181.
Did not bat: M T Brimson.
Bowling: Donohue 12-2-44-2; Warren 8-1-24-1; Pugh 6-0-32-2; Roebuck 12-2-27-2; Macgill 12-2-30-1; Cottam 12-1-41-0.
DEVON
N R Gaywood lbw b Millns 5
G T J Townsend b Wells 37
N A Folland c Maddy b Mason 19
*P M Roebuck c Nixon b Wells 6
R J Baggs b Brimson 29
A J Pugh st Nixon b Brimson 3
†C M W Read lbw b Mason 4
S C G Macgill b Mason 5
K Donohue b Wells 22
A C Cottam not out 12
P M Warren not out 27
Extras (b5, lb14, w6) 174
Total (for 9, 60 overs) 174
Fall: 1-27, 2-58, 3-76, 4-88, 5-89, 6-103, 7-117, 8-134, 9-136.
Bowling: Parsons 12-3-34-0; Millns 7-1-25-1; Wells 12-1-30-3; Mason 12-0-31-3; Brimson 12-4-16-2; Maddy 4-0-15-0; Johnson 1-0-4-0.
Umpires: G Sharp and N Mallender.

Glamorgan v Bedfordshire
CARDIFF: Glamorgan beat Bedfordshire by seven wickets.
Bedfordshire won toss
BEDFORDSHIRE
W Larkins lbw b Watkin 1
R N Dalton b Waqar Younis 8
N A Stanley lbw b Butcher 29
A R Roberts lbw b Watkin 7
C K Bullen lbw b Watkin 2
*P D B Hoare lbw b Butcher 12
A J Trott c Morris b Croft 14
Z A Sher b Waqar Younis 5
B J Young not out 30
†G D Sandford c Maynard b Cottey 18
M R White not out 6
Extras (b1, lb13, w21, nb14) 49
Total (for 9, 60 overs) 179
Fall: 1-5, 2-9, 3-18, 4-32, 5-74, 6-93, 7-111, 8-111, 9-149.
Bowling: Waqar Younis 10-3-35-2; Watkin 11-3-23-3; Thomas 12-1-38-0; Dale 2-0-5-0; Butcher 7-0-33-2; Croft 12-5-14-1; Cottey 3-0-9-1; Maynard 3-0-8-0.
GLAMORGAN
R D B Croft c Stanley b Dalton 64
H Morris c Larkins b Sher 13
†A D Shaw c Roberts b Dalton 19
**M P Maynard not out* 41
P A Cottey not out 28
Extras (lb2, w15, nb2) 19
Total (for 3, 30.2 overs) 182
Fall: 1-40, 2-106, 3-114.
Did not bat: S P James, A Dale, G P Butcher, S D Thomas, Waqar Younis, S L Watkin.
Bowling: White 9.2-0-45-0; Sher 3-0-42-1; Roberts 9-0-40-0; Dalton 6-0-32-2; Bullen 2-0-9-0; Trott 1-0-11-0.
Umpires: V A Holder and N Cowley.

Gloucestershire v Scotland
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire beat Scotland by 101 runs.
Gloucestershire won toss
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
A J Wright c Kennedy b Williamson 177
N J Trainor c Patterson b Steindl 143
S Young not out 14
M A Lynch not out 0
Extras (lb3, w10, nb4) 17
Total (for 2, 60 overs) 351
Fall: 1-311, 2-348.
Did not bat: R J Cunliffe, *M W Alleyne, †R C Russell, T H C Hancock, M C J Ball, K P Sheeraz, J Lewis.
Bowling: Steindl 12-2-67-1; Thomson 12-1-53-0; Stanger 10-0-69-0; Williamson 4-0-28-1; Sheridan 12-0-69-0; Kennedy 10-0-62-0.
SCOTLAND
B M W Patterson c Russell b Hancock 77
I L Philip c Russell b Young 21
M J Smith st Russell b Hancock 73
*G Salmond c Russell b Hancock 1
J G Williamson c Lewis b Hancock 7
I M Stanger b Hancock 21
†A G Davies c Lynch b Trainor 16
S R Kennedy not out 7
P D Steindl b Hancock 7
K L P Sheridan c & b Trainor 0
K Thomson not out 1
Extras (lb3, w14, nb2) 19
Total (for 9, 60 overs) 250
Fall: 1-33, 2-168, 3-183, 4-187, 5-202, 6-234, 7-236, 8-245, 9-249.
Bowling: Lewis 9-0-38-0; Young 6-0-20-1; Alleyne 6-0-28-0; Sheeraz 10-1-30-0; Ball 12-1-48-0; Hancock 12-0-58-6; Trainor 5-0-25-2.
Umpires: J W Holder and M K Reed.

Lancashire v Berkshire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire beat Berkshire by 169 runs.
Berkshire won toss
LANCASHIRE
P C McKeown c Hodgson b Kendrick 42
*M A Atherton c Seymour b Barrow 8
J P Crawley lbw b Marc 11
G D Lloyd b Sylvester 96
M E Harvey b Myles 86
I D Austin b Myles 2
†W K Hegg st Lane b Sylvester 37
G Yates not out 34
D Chapple not out 2
Extras (b2, lb10, w11, nb10) 33
Total (for 7, 60 overs) 351
Fall: 1-30, 2-58, 3-88, 4-264, 5-267, 9-285, 7-337.
Did not bat: P J Martin, D J Shadford.
Bowling: Marc 9-0-61-1; Barrow 9-0-32-1; Kendrick 12-0-46-1; Myles 12-0-77-2; Hartley 9-0-64-0; Sylvester 9-0-59-2.
BERKSHIRE
G E Loveday c Hegg b Martin 11
*J P J Sylvester c Atherton b Chapple 22
S A *Seymour* b Yates 17
S D Myles c Hegg b Yates 25
J Hodgson not out 53
H M Hall c Harvey b Austin 17
†M D Lane not out 18
Extras (lb5, w12, nb2) 18
Total (for 5, 60 overs) 182
Fall: 1-37, 2-37, 3-79, 4-82, 5-147.
Did not bat: N M Kendrick, K Marc, D J Hartley, J K Barrow.
Bowling: Austin 12-5-22-1; Martin 10-3-14-1; Chapple 8-0-28-1; Shadford 7-0-31-0; Yates 12-3-15-2; Lloyd 2-0-12-0; McKeown 10-0-51-0; Crawley 1-0-4-0.
Umpires: H D Bird and A D 7 *Whitehead.*

Lincolnshire v Derbyshire
LINCOLN LINDUM: Derbyshire beat Lincolnshire by eight wickets.
Derbyshire won toss
LINCOLNSHIRE
J R Wileman b Malcolm 1
B G Plumb b *Malcolm* 8
M R Gouldstone b Aldred 37
R J Evans c Aldred b DeFreitas 3
**M A Fell lbw b Aldred* 17
P A Rawden run out 0
L C Weekes c Krikken b Harris 8
†P Trend lbw b Harris 0
S A Bradford not out 15
D A Christmas b Aldred 0
S Oakes c Clarke b Aldred 4
Extras (b2, lb2, w14, nb5) 23
Total (50.2 overs) 116
Fall: 1-2, 2-11, 3-14, 4-40, 5-40, 6-53, 7-61, 8-111, 9-111.
Bowling: Malcolm 12-2-27-2; DeFreitas 11-4-20-1; Aldred 10.2-2-30-4; Harris 8-2-12-2; Clarke 6-1-12-0; Barnett 3-0-11-0.
DERBYSHIRE
A B Rollins c Gouldstone b *Bradford* 21
J E Owen c Trend b Oakes 10
C J Adams not out 71
T A Tweats not out 5
Extras (w4, nb10) 14
Total (for 2, 19 overs) 121
Fall: 1-24, 2-87.
Did not bat: K J Barnett, V P Clarke, †K M Krikken, *P A J DeFreitas, P Aldred, A J Harris, D E Malcolm.
Bowling: Weekes 6-1-39-0; Oakes 5-0-34-1; Christmas 4-0-30-0; Bradford 4-1-18-1.
Umpires: N T Plews and P Adams.

Middlesex v Kent
LORD'S: Middlesex beat Kent by three wickets.
Kent won toss
KENT
D P Fulton c Brown b Fraser 9
M J Walker c Brown b Fraser 13
T R Ward c Brown b Hewitt 0
A P Wells c Brown b Bloomfield 9
N J Llong c Brown b Johnson 88
M A Ealham c Fraser b Johnson 46
M V Fleming c Ramprakash b Johnson 41
P A Strang c *Ramprakash* b Johnson 6
*†S A Marsh b Johnson 0
M J McCague not out 4
D W Headley lbw b Weekes 1
Extras (lb12, w14, nb2) 28
Total (59.5 overs) 225
Fall: 1-11, 2-21, 3-33, 4-64, 5-161, 6-173, 7-217, 8-217, 9-218.
Bowling: Fraser 11.5-3-22-2; Hewitt 8-0-41-1; Bloomfield 8-2-25-1; Johnson 12-1-50-5; Weekes 12-0-47-1; Ramprakash 8-0-28-0.
MIDDLESEX
P N Weekes b Llong 34
J H Kallis c McCague b Headley 4
*M R Ramprakash b Fleming 72
M W Gatting b Ealham 20
J C Pooley c sub b Llong 12
†K R Brown lbw b Headley 20
D A Shah not out 27
R L Johnson b Headley 8
J P Hewitt not out 14
Extras (b2, lb8, w6) 16
Total (for 7, 59.2 overs) 227
Fall: 1-5, 2-86, 3-142, 4-148, 5-169, 6-183, 7-195.
Did not bat: A R C Fraser, 7 F Bloomfield.
Bowling: Headley 12-1-31-3; McCague 2-0-8-0; Fleming 12-3-22-1; Ealham 12-0-45-1; Llong 9.2-0-49-2; Strang 12-0-62-0.
Umpires: B J Meyer and G I Burgess.

Notts v Staffordshire
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire beat Staffordshire by 10 wickets.
Nottinghamshire won toss
STAFFORDSHIRE
*S J Dean b Evans 4
I W E Stokes c Afzaal b Franks 18
L Potter c Archer b Astle 19
D K Pashley b Astle 5
P F Shaw c Franks b Archer 18
D R Womble lbw b Astle 8
†M I Humphries c Archer b Pick 2
C G Feltham not out 6
D J Brock b Pick 0
A Richardson lbw b Pick 0
S D Horsfall run out 0
Extras (lb7, w7) 14
Total (45.3 overs) 95
Fall: 1-13, 2-49, 3-48, 4-73, 5-78, 6-88, 7-90, 8-95, 9-95.
Bowling: Pick 9-1-17-3; Evans 7.3-4-3-1; Franks 9-5-14-1; Bowen 5-0-17-0; Astle 10-2-20-3; Archer 5-1-17-1.
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
P R Pollard not out 42
*R T Robinson not out 41
Extras (lb1, w8, nb4) 13
Total (for 0, 31.5 overs) 96
Did not bat: U Afzaal, N J Astle, A A Metcalfe, G F Archer, †W M Noon, K P Evans, M N Bowen, R A Pick, P J Franks.
Bowling: Richardson 9-2-26-0; Horsfall 6-1-15-0; Brock 8-1-31-0; Womble 4-0-17-0; Potter 4-1-6-0; Feltham 0.5-0-1-0.
Umpires: J C Balderstone and M J Kitchen.

Somerset v Herefordshire
TAUNTON: Somerset beat Herefordshire by 231 runs.
Somerset won toss
SOMERSET
M Burns c Cooper b Radford 6
P C L Holloway c & b Skyrme 90
*P D Bowler c Cooper b Skyrme 87
S C Ecclestone b Radford 101
M N Lathwell c Skyrme b Fowles 42
†R J Turner not out 14
K A Parsons not out 0
Extras (b7, lb10, w10) 27
Total (for 5, 60 overs) 367
Fall: 1-27, 2-193, 3-223, 4-351, 5-361.
Did not bat: G D Rose, J I D Kerr, A R Caddick, Mushtaq Ahmed.
Bowling: Radford 12-1-64-2; Cooper 12-0-63-0; Harding 12-0-53-0; Fowles 10-0-73-1; Blakemore 2-0-19-0; Skyrme 12-0-78-2.
HEREFORDSHIRE
H V Patel b Rose 3
R Hall b Mushtaq Ahmed 29
R Barlow b Mushtaq Ahmed 15
I Blakemore c Bowler b Kerr 7
D Graham b Kerr 2
†R P Skyrme c Bowler b Mushtaq Ahmed 7
*S R Bevins c Rose b Mushtaq Ahmed 8
N V Radford not out 25
M G Fowles b Kerr 0
R J Harding c Lathwell b Rose 17
K Cooper b Caddick 4
Extras (lb4, w11, nb4) 19
Total (37.4 overs) 136
Fall: 1-8, 2-60, 3-65, 4-68, 5-72, 6-83, 7-99, 8-100, 9-131.
Bowling: Caddick 8.4-1-30-1; Rose 9-0-43-2; Mushtaq Ahmed 12-2-27-4; Kerr 8-0-32-3.
Umpires: D J Constant and K J Lyons.

Surrey v Durham
THE OVAL: Surrey beat Durham by five wickets.
Surrey won toss
DURHAM
J J B Lewis c B C Hollioake b Bicknell 1
N J Speak c Butcher b Lewis 4
J E Morris c Stewart b Lewis 75
*D C Boon b Salisbury 57
†M P Speight b Salisbury 9
P D Collingwood c Brown b Saqlain 15
M J Foster not out 56
M M Betts c Lewis b Salisbury 3
J Boiling not out 6
Extras (b2, lb7, w12) 21
Total (for 7, 60 overs) 247
Fall: 1-5, 2-26, 3-143, 4-165, 5-172, 6-196, 7-208.
Did not bat: S J E Brown, A Walker.
Bowling: Bicknell 10-2-25-1; Lewis 11-1-37-2; A J Hollioake 8-0-48-0; B C Hollioake 7-1-31-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 12-1-63-1; Salisbury 12-0-38-3.
SURREY
J D Ratcliffe c Boon b Foster 39
M A Butcher c Speight b *Brown* 0
†A J Stewart not out 90
G P Thorpe c Speight b Foster 0
A D Brown c Morris b Betts 44
*A J Hollioake b Brown 34
C C Lewis not out 3
Extras (lb13, w12, nb16) 41
Total (for 5, 48.5 overs) 251
Fall: 1-16, 2-102, 3-102, 4-180, 5-231.
Did not bat: B C Hollioake, *M P Bicknell, I D K* Salisbury, Saqlain Mushtaq.
Bowling: Brown 10-0-42-2; Betts 9-0-73-1; Walker 9.5-1-32-0; *Foster 8-1-37-2;* Boiling 12-0-54-0.
Umpires: T E Jesty and R Palmer.

Sussex v Shropshire
HOVE: Sussex beat Shropshire by 10 wickets.
Sussex won toss
SHROPSHIRE
J V Anders c Moores b Drakes 6
K Sharp lbw b Kirtley 3
J B R Jones c Moores b Robinson 14
Asif Din b Kirtley 1
*M R Davies lbw b Robinson 9
A N Johnson c Moores b Kirtley 15
A B Byram b Khan 5
G J Byram lbw b Kirtley 0
†A N Mackelworth b Kirtley 0
D L Bowett not out 11
A Shimmons run out 14
Extras (lb15, w13, nb8) 36
Total (47.5 overs) 118
Fall: 1-5, 2-23, 3-25, 4-39, 5-54, 6-79, 7-79, 8-79, 9-79.
Bowling: Kirtley 12-2-39-5; Drakes 7-4-13-1; K Newell 9-4-8-0; Robinson 11.5-4-28-2; Khan 8-2-13-1.
SUSSEX
K Greenfield not out 88
C W J Athey not out 18
Extras (b4, w2, nb6) 12
Total (for 0, 45.4 overs) 119
Did not bat: N R Taylor, M Newell, K Newell, *†P Moores, V C Drakes, M J Thursfield, A A Khan, M A Robinson, R J Kirtley.
Bowling: Shimmons 4-0-27-0; G J Byram 7-1-22-0; Asif din 12-7-20-0; A B Byram 12-4-29-0; Bowett 7-2-15-0; Anders *3.4-2-2-0.*
Umpires: R Julian and J Lloyds.

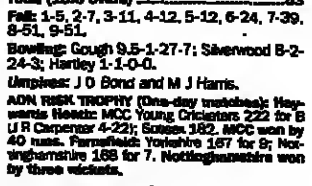
Warwickshire v Norfolk
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire beat Norfolk by 80 runs.
Norfolk won toss
WARWICKSHIRE
*N V Knight c Amos b Newman 0
N M K Smith c Amos b Newman 4
D L Hemp c Rogers b Newman 0
7 L Penney run out 0
A J Moles b Newman 64
D R Brown c Rogers b Bradshaw 1
G Welch b Bradshaw 5
A F Giles lbw b D R Thomas 69
†T Frost c Boyden b D R Thomas 0
G C Small not out 32
A A Donald c Newman b Bradshaw 1
Extras (b1, lb5, w15, nb10) 31
Total (59.3 overs) 207
Fall: 1-0, 2-5, 3-5, 4-6, 5-15, 6-25, 7-162, 8-162, 9-202.
Bowling: *Newman 12-2-23-4;* Bradshaw 11.3-1-42-3; Goldsmith 6-1-13-0; M W Thomas 12-*0-50-0; Adams 3-0-13-0; D R Thomas* 10-1-38-2; Fox 5-0-22-0.
NORFOLK
C J Rogers b Giles 13
C Amos c Knight b Welch 13
7 J Boon lbw b Giles 12
D R Thomas c Moles b Giles 4
N J Adams b Giles 0
S C Goldsmith c Frost b Donald 22
*P G Newman c Frost b Donald 5
N Fox lbw b Small 21
M W Thomas st Frost b Giles 6
P J Bradshaw c Hemp b Donald 0
†M K L Boyden not out 8
Extras (b1, lb13, w7, nb2) 23
Total (48.2 overs) 127
Fall: 1-22, 2-46, 3-49, 4-53, 5-53, 6-83, 7-84, 8-91, 9-96.
Bowling: Donald 12-4-36-3; Welch 6-1-18-1; Brown 12-4-22-0; Giles 12-8-21-5; Smith 4-0-16-0; Small 0.2-0-0-1.
Umpires: J H Harris and A A Jones.

Worcs v Netherlands
WORCESTER: Worcestershire beat the Netherlands by 111 runs.
Netherlands won toss
WORCESTERSHIRE
*T M Moody c Lefebvre b Dutler 108
T S Curtis b van Dijk 28
G A Hick c de Leede b Goodwin 7
G R Haynes run out 32
K R Spiring c de Leede b Lefebvre 53
D A Leatherdale c Dutler b de Leede 42
S R Lampitt not out 28
†S J Rhodes not out 0
Extras (lb6, w20, nb10) 36
Total (for 6, 60 overs) 336
Fall: 1-61, 2-109, 3-199, 4-206, 5-292, 6-330.
Did not bat: P J Newport, A Sheriyar, M Rawnsley.
Bowling: Khan 12-2-69-0; Lefebvre 12-0-42-1; van Dijk 12-0-68-1; Dutler 10-0-62-1; de Leede 8-0-48-1; Goodwin 5-1-28-1; Zulfiqar 1-0-20-0.
NETHERLANDS
R Van Oosterom c Hick b Newport 2
B Zuiderent run out 99
M Goodwin c Rhodes b Haynes 4
K J van Noortwijk run out 25
*T de Leede c Spiring b Sheriyar 10
A Zulfiqar b Newport 21
†M Schewe c Haynes b Rawnsley 10
A Khan c Newport b Hick 5
R Lefebvre b Rawnsley 4
B van Dijk not out 9
E Dutler lbw b Hick 3
Extras (lb3, w9, nb22) 34
Total (54.2 overs) 225
Fall: 1-8, 2-36, 3-122, 4-139, 5-181, 6-195, 7-205, 8-209, 9-217.
Bowling: Newport 12-0-52-2; Haynes 9-2-18-1; Lampitt 5-0-28-0; Rawnsley 11-2-50-2; Sheriyar 7-0-35-1; Leatherdale 6-0-25-0; Hick 4.2-0-14-2.
Umpires: P Willey and J F Steele.

Yorkshire v Ireland
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire beat Ireland by 196 runs.
Ireland won toss
YORKSHIRE
M D Moxon c Rutherford b McCrum 0
A McGrath c Rutherford b *Eagleson* 0
*D Byas lbw b Eagleson 10
D S Lehmann b Heasley 17
B Parker c Molins b McCrum 0
C White lbw b Benson 63
†R J Blakey c Patterson b McCrum 3
P J Hartley c *Benson* b *Heasley* 83
D Gough run out 46
C E W Silverwood c Lewis b Heasley 3
R D *Stamp* not out 0
Extras (lb1, w23) 24
Total (59.4 overs) 249
Fall: 1-4, 2-16, 3-23, 4-31, 5-45, 6-55, 7-155, 9-234, 9-249.
*Bowling: McCrum 12-5-26-3; Eagleson 10-*2-40-2; Heasley 9.4-1-41-3; Molins 8-0-39-*0;* Benson 11-1-55-1; Lewis 3-0-23-0; Curry 6-0-24-0.
IRELAND
J D Curry lbw b Gough 4
W K McCallan c Blakey b Gough 2
D A Lewis c Byas b Silverwood 0
**J D R Benson lbw b Silverwood* 0
A D Patterson b Silverwood 0
A R Dunlop lbw b Gough 5
D Heasley b Gough 16
R L Eagleson c Byas b Gough 10
†A T Rutherford not out 4
G L Molins lbw b Gough 0
P McCrum lbw b Gough 0
Extras (lb2, w6, nb2) 10
Total (18.5 overs) 53
Fall: 1-5, 2-7, 3-11, 4-12, 5-12, 6-24, 7-39, 8-51, 9-51.
Bowling: Gough 9.5-1-27-7; Silverwood 8-2-24-3; Hartley 1-1-0-0.
Umpires: J D Bond and M J Harris.

ADN RISK TROPHY (One-day matches): Haywards Heath: MCC Young Cricketers 222 for 8 (J R Carpenter 4-22); Sussex 182. MCC won by 40 runs. Farnsfield: Yorkshire 187 for 9; Nottinghamshire 188 for 7. Nottinghamshire won by three wickets.

Starting today
SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of three, 11.0 start): Belper (Meadows): Derbyshire v Glamorgan. Boldon: Durham v Surrey. Shirehampton: Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire. Sittingbourne: Kent v Worcestershire. Kibworth: Leicestershire v Hampshire. Collingham: Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire. North Perrott: Somerset v Lancashire. Moseley: Warwickshire v Middlesex.

THE INDEPENDENT

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Hingis and Co highlight the generation gap

Richard Edmondson watches the women do battle on court and finds the young ones victorious

Women's tennis is different from men's tennis and there is one school of thought that the cohesion and methodology of the distaff version makes it the greater spectacle. Certainly it is true to say that if a point gets as far as a successful service return in the men's game it qualifies as a rally.

Further differences involve the reportage. One caveat your noble observer receives from on high exclusively about the women's game is to avoid sexism. This is a silly request as how could anyone be chauvinistic about those sweet little girls in their pretty frocks?

Martina Hingis is finding that with the territory of No 1 come questions with little immediate pertinence to her game. These include weight, boyfriends but not, as yet, the weight of her boyfriends.

The Swiss miss hardly helped her cause yesterday by wearing a dress that appeared half a size too small and struggled to contain what the scamps in my form used to refer to as thunder thighs. The apparel also seemed to be cutting off the circulation to Hingis's racket arm as she toiled uneasily against a qualifier, Anne Kremer.

It would be easy to report that the woman from Luxembourg was playing her own nerves as much as anything else yesterday and this was a contest of Kremer versus Kremer, but that would betray the truth. Hingis was initially too static and too rusty on grass, and it took some time before the WD40 started working on the way to a 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Sunday morning fuzzyheads should not be surprised, incidentally, if they think they see the world No1 on Wimbledon Common this Sunday morning. if she survives the first week, Hingis plans metaphorically to get back on the bike and actually get on a horse, despite the fact it was an equine accident that forced her out of the game for six weeks earlier this year.

Hingis is operating in days when the age of a good female player appears to be the same as a bad hand of pontoon. She is 16, the same age as her former junior rival Anna Kournikova, who also won yesterday.

Kournikova, who is not the ugliest figure on the tour, was up against Chanda Rubin, 21, who is no ogress herself. This factor presumably explained why the contest pitched up on Centre Court, as their respective rankings were none too dramatic.

Since the early 1990s Kournikova and her parents, who are Russian, have been wined and dined in the swankiest New York restaurants by agents seeking ink on a contract. The player is the natural heiress to Gabriela Sabatini as the face the advertisers seek. The most striking feature of Kournikova yesterday though was a plaited ponytail of such length and constituency that it could probably keep the QEII at quayside.

Players have to keep their wits about them for far longer than the final point these days, and it was no different for Kournikova yesterday. "Is your boyfriend, Sergei, here?" asked one inquisitor confidently in the press conference. "I'm single," she replied. "You're not going out with him?" "I'm single".

The Russian admitted she was nervous playing her first match at the championships in its premier crucible, but that her confidence had been fed as the match progressed. This was hardly surprising as Rubin was serving trolley-loads of sustenance over the net.

They have had a Chanda Rubin Day in her home town of Lafayette, Louisiana. Yesterday, at Wimbledon, they held a Chanda Rubin nightmare. The American participated in the longest women's match in the championships (58 games against Patricia Hy-Boulais in 1995), but the marathon woman did not detain us long yesterday. It took 43 minutes to occupy a 6-1, 6-1 scoreline.

The court environment is more than familiar to the family Rubin as the patriarch, Edward, is a district judge. Amanda Coetzer, too, has a lawyer father, and he may have been of some use to the family of the woman she has beaten three times this season, Steffi Graf.

There is a wanted poster in the All England complex featuring Coetzer as a character "who may be hazardous to your ranking". Her aliases are given as Little Assassin, Speedy Gonzalez and Quicksilver – she never considers a point dead and would chase the ball into a snake pit.

Yesterday, she put her little legs to good use against Alex Fusai of France. Their contest had been suspended overnight at 6-6 in a first tie-break, which was rather like being left in the electric chair while the battery was being recharged.

Coetzer lost only one further game as she assembled a 7-6, 6-1 win, in the process leaping around like the national animal motif of her native South Africa. Coetzer generates surprising power from a 5ft 2in frame, lending the impression of an ant dragging a twig back to the communal hill. She is an example to all of what can be achieved in the Jurassic Park zone of the 27th year of female tennis player's life.

Amanda Coetzer plays a backhand yesterday

Anna Kournikova on her way to victory over Chanda Rubin Photographs: David Ashdown

Court circular

Stuffed shirts bar bookies

Fancy a bet on the tennis? Plenty do. Thanks to the glory charge of the British men, bookmakers report unprecedented interest in Wimbledon, William Hill's alone standing to lose £1m should a Henman or a Rusedski lift the trophy a week on Sunday.

But for those attending the event the advice is to get the money on before stepping into the All England Club. Catching sight of a betting booth inside the hallowed grounds is as likely as spotting the Rusedski frown.

Which is all very curious because big sport nowadays is big betting business. Apart from the Open golf no other major sporting event closes its doors to the tic-tac brigade.

In 1975 Hill's were invited to take a site at Wimbledon. Interest, according to their media relations manager Graham Sharpe, was huge. Yet it did not go down well with the stuffed shirts. The following year Hill's found their rent drastically increased and their proposed site somewhat less attractive.

"Maybe we were too successful too soon," Sharpe suggested. "But the world has moved on considerably since those times. We are a lot more sophisticated now with better facilities. Because of the emergence of some genuine British talent and because of the satellite TV coverage of the game, tennis is now one of the fastest growing betting sports but Wimbledon don't seem to want to know."

Yesterday's win brought a sharp knife to Rusedski's title odds. A 66-1 shot before the Stella Artois tournament two weeks ago, he is now down to 12s which the *Sporting Life*'s Dan Garrett claims is poor value. At 25-1 Tim Henman offers a bigger return.

If a fruity exchange passed between one aged spectator and a man dressed as a strawberry yesterday, it was hard to tell. From the pensioner's stony expression, it seems that she must have felt something of a gooseberry
Photograph: David Ashdown

Beads could be a burden for Williams

Keep an eye on the beads this Wimbledon. Venus Williams, one of the band of teenage terrors threatening an overthrow of women's tennis, has the physique and tha game that gets her noticed. But just in case, the 17-year-old from Los Angeles has threaded white beads into her dreadlocks to ensure herself even more of a head start.

They add colour and dash to what is already a starry commodity. But Venus, still awaiting her first match after rain delayed her scheduled encounter on Monday with Magdalena Grzybowska, of Poland, must beware. The loss of a single bead on court would constitute an offence under Rule 25 relating to clothing or equipment falling from a player on to the court.

Should a bead fall, on the first occasion a let would be played. On the second, another let would be played and Miss Williams would be advised that if she dropped any more beads a point would be awarded to her opponent.

However, if one were to land on her rival's side of the net at any time that would be deemed an automatic loss of a point under Rule 20e.

DEEDS OF THE SEEDS

Men's singles — Holder: Richard Krajicek (Netherlands)

- 1 SAMPRAS: No problems for the favourite – he's in 2nd rd
- 2 IVANISEVIC: Served up in the 2nd rd is Swede Magnus Norman
- 3 KAFELNIKOV: Better luck this year for Yevgeny – he's in 2nd rd
- 4 KRAJICEK: Meets Romanian Andrei Pavel in 2nd rd
- 5 CHANG: 1st rd opponent is Todd Woodbridge
- 6 PHILIPPOUSSIS (OUT): Blown away in 1st rd by Our Greg in straight sets
- 8 BECKER: Simple 3-set win takes Boris into the 2nd rd
- 9 RIOS: Faces Dennis van Scheppingen in 2nd rd
- 10 MOYA: Plays Richey Reneberg in 2nd rd
- 11 KUERTEN (OUT): Happier on clay, Gustavo goes out in 5 sets
- 12 RAFTER: After 5 sets the Australian reaches 2nd rd
- 13 MEDVEDEV: Straight-sets win sees Andrei over the first hurdle
- 14 HENMAN: Jerome Golmard provides Tim's next challenge
- 15 FERREIRA: After a long five-setter S African is in the 2nd rd
- 16 KORDA: Playing Marcelo Filippini in 1st rd
- 17 BJORKMAN (OUT): Wilkinson wipes out Swedish hope in fifth set

Women's singles — Holder: Steffi Graf (Germany)

- 1 HINGIS: Swiss prodigy has secured her 2nd rd place
- 2 SELES: In 1st rd poised to play Rachael McQuillan
- 3 NOVOTNA: Up against Wiltrud Probst in 1st rd
- 4 MAJOLI: Manon Maruska aims to put a to stop to Iva's run
- 5 DAVENPORT: Meets Denisa Chladkova in 2nd rd
- 6 COETZER: Amanda's campaign continues in 2nd rd
- 7 HUBER: Comfortable win eases her into 2nd rd
- 8 SANCHEZ: Hardly broke into a sweat to get to 2nd rd
- 9 PIERCE: Mary plays Dominique van Roost in 1st rd
- 10 MARTINEZ: Coasted into 2nd rd, only losing 3 games in process
- 11 FERNANDEZ: Still to meet Noelle van Lottum in 1st rd
- 12 SPIRLEA: Faces Russia's Elena Makarova in 2nd rd
- 13 PO (OUT): Crashed out to Kerry Guse in 3 sets
- 14 SCHULTZ: Dropped first set before clinching place in 2nd rd
- 15 DRAGOMIR (OUT): Lost the long 1st rd battle against Andrea Glass
- 16 PAULUS: Still to play Kristie Boogert in 1st rd

THE NUMBERS GAME

7 The number of Aussies Greg Rusedski has beaten in the last two weeks
58 The number of minutes Conchita Martinez took to win her first-round match
167 The countries the BBC broadcasts to over Wimbledon
34 The cameras the BBC use to transmit their coverage
100 million The cost in pounds of the new No 1 Court
2 The games Anna Kournikova lost against Chanda Rubin
45 The number of chair umpires at Wimbledon

TODAY'S WEATHER

Rain but possible clear spells later. Maximum temperature 19C

Game set and watch.
ROLEX
OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPER TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, WIMBLEDON.

Quotes of the day

"What can you do when when the guy serves this big? You can't do anything against him. That's the best I've ever returned against." **Mark Philippoussis** after his defeat by Greg Rusedski, who served 27 aces.

"I've played like this before against Andre Agassi in New York and also against Pete Sampras, so I know I can do it. I feel I'm playing really well and getting better all the time." **Rusedski**.

"Tim has done really well and he's No 1, but I'm catching him up and believe I can be top man again." **Rusedski** on his British rivalry with Tim Henman.

"That's five overrules today against me. That's five – look it up in the computer." **Jeff Tarango** protests to the umpire during his defeat by the Frenchman Rodolphe Gilbert.

"I didn't fancy myself at all. I was due to play Thomas Muster and thought I had a good chance of beating him and claiming a big scalp. When he pulled out and I realised I had to play Bjorkman I was very disappointed. He's a good player and got to the semis at Queen's the other week, and I didn't fancy my chances." **Chris Wilkinson** after his victory over the 17th seed, Jonas Bjorkman.

"It's much harder to play a qualifier because they are used to playing matches on grass. And she's a hard opponent. I remember I played her in a junior tournament and lost from two match points." **Martina Hingis** after her less than impressive victory over Anne Kremer, an amateur ranked 217 places below her in the world

"I did not want to spend too long on court." **Aranxta Sanchez Vicario** on her 6-0, 6-0 victory over Britain's Clare Wood.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Men's singles
First round
Holder: R Krajicek (Neth)

G Raoux (Fr) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-3 6-4 6-1
S Stolle (Aus) bt C Woodruff (US) 6-2 6-2 6-4
P Haarhuis (Neth) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-1 6-2 7-6
M Woodforde (Aus) bt L Paes (Ind) 6-3 7-5 6-4
D Flach (US) bt B Elwood (Aus) 6-1 7-6 3-6 6-4
W FERREIRA (SA) bt S Draper (Aus) 6-7 3-6 6-4 6-0 7-5
O Van Scheppingen (Neth) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 5-7 6-4 3-6 6-1 6-4
M Norman (Swe) bt L Herrera (Mex) 7-6 6-1 6-4
C Pioline (Fr) bt M Charpentier (Arg) 5-7 6-3 7-5 6-2
F Clavet (Sp) bt N Lapentti (Ec) 7-5 6-1 6-3
F Fetterlein (Den) bt J Novak (Cz Rep) 4-6 3-6 6-4 7-6 6-4
J Golmard (Fr) bt J Delgado (GB) 6-4 6-2 6-7 6-2
T Larkham (Aus) bt S Dosedel (Cz Rep) 6-7 6-3 6-4 7-5
D Rikl (Cz Rep) bt D Vacek (Cz Rep) 6-1 6-3 6-3
E Alvarez (Sp) bt K Carlsen (Den) 6-7 3-6 6-4 6-1 6-2
R Gilbert (Fr) bt J Tarango (US) 3-6 7-5 7-6 6-4
G Rusedski (GB) bt M PHILIPPOUSSIS (Aus) 7-6 7-6 6-3
J Gimelstob (US) bt G KUERTEN (Br) 6-3 6-4 4-6 1-6 6-4
B BECKER (Ger) bt M Gorriz (Sp) 6-3 6-2 6-3
A Clement (Fr) bt L Milligan (GB) 2-6 7-6 7-5 6-2
C Wilkinson (GB) bt J BJORKMAN (Swe) 7-6 0-6 5-7 6-3 6-4
R Reneberg (US) bt H Arazi (Mor) 7-6 6-4 7-6
H Dreekmann (Ger) bt P Fredriksson (Swe) 6-3 6-4 6-3
J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt O Burrieza (Sp) 6-3 6-4 6-3
J Knippschild (Ger) bt W McGuire (US) 6-4 6-4 6-4
M Martelli (It) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-4 6-3 6-1
M RIOS (Chile) bt M Bhupathi (Ind) 6-4 6-4 6-3
M Stich (Ger) bt J Courier (US) 7-6 7-5 7-6
Y KAFELNIKOV (Rus) bt J Marin (Sp) 6-4 6-2 6-0
J Stark (US) bt S Huet (Fr) 7-6 6-7 6-3 2-6 6-3
P RAFTER (Aus) bt G Stafford (SA) 2-6 4-6 6-3 6-2 6-2
N Kiefer (Ger) bt A Volkov (Rus) 6-4 6-4 6-2
A MEDVEDEV (Ukr) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-2 6-3 6-4
T Johansson (Swe) bt D Hrbaty (Slovak) 7-5 6-3 6-1
N Kulti (Swe) bt M Sinner (Ger) 7-6 6-2 6-3
P SAMPRAS (US) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-4 6-4 6-2
J Van Lottum (Neth) bt O Stanoytchev (Bul) 3-6 2-6 6-3 6-1 6-3
M Ondruska (SA) bt S Schalken (Neth) 3-6 7-5 6-0 0-1 *retired*

Women's singles
First round
Holder: S Graf (Ger)

N Arendt (US) bt P Langrova (Cz Rep) 6-2 6-0
A HUBER (Ger) bt H Inoue (Japan) 6-3 6-3
C MARTINEZ (Sp) bt K Habsudova (Slovak) 6-1 6-2
L Raymond (US) bt E Martincova (Cz Rep) 6-4 6-2
O Barabanschikova bt P Begerow (Ger) 6-3 6-3
B SCHULTZ-McCARTHY (Neth) bt S Farina (It) 4-6 6-3 6-2
J Kruger (SA) bt S De Ville (Bel) 7-6 6-3
A COETZER (SA) bt A Fusai (Fr) 7-6 6-1
M Maruska (Aut) bt A Gersi (Cz Rep) 7-6 6-2
E Makarova (Rus) bt T Panova (Rus) 6-4 4-6 6-3
K A Guse (Aus) bt K PO (US) 3-6 7-5 6-2
A SANCHEZ VICARIO (Sp) bt C Wood (GB) 6-0 6-0
M HINGIS (Swit) bt A Kremer (Lux) 6-4 6-4
Y Basuki (Indo) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-3 6-0
A Frazier (US) bt S Cacic (US) 7-5 6-4
A Kournikova (Rus) bt C Rubin (US) 6-1 6-1
B Rittner (Ger) bt A G Sidot (Fr) 7-6 6-4
H Sukova (Cz Rep) bt S-A Siddall (GB) 7-6 6-1
N Dechy (Fr) bt L Courtois (Bel) 6-7 6-1 6-2
M Sanchez Lorenzo (Sp) bt F Perfetti (It) 6-4 6-4
S Appelmans (Bel) bt R Simpson (Can) 6-2 3-6 6-0
L Golarsa (It) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 6-1 4-6 6-3
K Cross (GB) bt L Wild (US) 6-4 6-2
G Fernandez (US) bt M Oremans (Neth) 7-6 6-3
A Glass (Ger) bt R DRAGOMIR (Rom) 5-7 6-2 10-8
Y Yoshida (Japan) bt R Hiraki (Japan) 6-2 6-3
(seeded players in capitals)

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY

CENTRE COURT
R McQuillan (Aus) v M Seles (US)
M Norman (Swe) v G Ivanisevic (Croa)
T Henman (GB) v J Golmard (Fr)

No 1 COURT
W Probst (Ger) v J Novotna (Cz Rep)
G Rusedski (GB) v J Stark (US)
C Wilkinson (GB) v M Woodforde (Aus)

COURT TWO
A Pavel (Rom) v R Krajicek (Neth)
D Van Roost (Bel) v M Pierce (Fr)
M Stich (Ger) v J Gimelstob (US)

TOMORROW'S HEADLINE?

Henman has to chip away

The last time Tim Henman played a Frenchman was in the French Open last month when he lost to Olivier Delaitre. *La Botte* will be on the other foot today when Jerome Golmard, a 24-year-old qualified joiner from Dijon, will find himself isolated on Centre Court. For Henman, who has never played Golmard, it is a second match against a tall left-hander with a decent serve but his opponent's main weapon is his unpredictability. "I never knew what he was going to do next," Goran Ivanisevic said after he had needed a second set tie-break to beat Golmard in the Stella a fortnight ago. Golmard is clearly useful on grass in spite of a preference for staying back. That should ensure some rallies. *Simon O'Hagan*

Tarango keeps dark side under cover

Jeff Tarango beat his temper in his return to Wimbledon but could not beat his first-round opponent yesterday.

The 29-year-old American stormed off court in the middle of a match two years ago and accused the chair umpire, Bruno Rebeuh, of favouritism. His wife, Benedicte, then slapped Rebeuh. The incident led to a fine and a one-year suspension from the Championship.

Tarango was on generally good behaviour yesterday, with only a few outbursts over line calls, as he lost to the French qualifier Rodolphe Gilbert 3-6, 7-5, 7-6, 6-4.

The match was played on Court Four, apparently scheduled there because of its proximity to the office window of the head referee, Alan Mills.

Tarango's wife sat passively at courtside and said little, while his father, Bob, offered only mild encouragement.

In a match extended over two days after a rain delay, Tarango clashed with the umpire Wayne McKewan only on the second day. On the first – with play going well – he was even polite to the ball girls as he flicked them loose balls with his racket.

Yesterday, however, after losing the third set in a 7-0 tie-breaker, his frustration and disappointment began to show through.

"That's five overrules today against me," Tarango shouted on a disputed line call. "That's five, look it up in the computer."

He turned down interview requests after the match, but his father spoke for him.

"It was ugly what happened two years ago," Bob Tarango said. "It was unfortunate, one of those things that happens in the heat of battle in sports. Jeff and his wife are really great people, but Jeff is a person who wears his heart on his sleeve.

"I talked to him like any father would. I expect him to comport himself with integrity and character. The world has not seen the real Jeff…they've just seen his dark side."

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Everton turn back to Kendall

Football

ALAN NIXON

Everton turned back the clock again yesterday by moving to make Howard Kendall their manager for the third time.

After Andy Gray's decision to remain with Sky Television, Everton's chairman, Peter Johnson, summoned Kendall from a holiday in Spain for the second time in a week. First, it was for an interview that came to seemed to have come nothing; yesterday, he wanted to offer him a with a job offer. Talks were in progress yesterday with Sheffield United, Kendall's current employers.

Kendall will appoint his own staff at Goodison, which will leave the club with a strong sense of "All our yesterdays". Kendall intends to bring in Viv Busby, his friend and assistant at Sheffield United, and his former Everton player, Adrian Heath, now manager of Burnley. Colin Harvey, Kendall's old coach, has already rejoined as head of the youth side.

Kendall brought Everton glory in the 1980s before leaving for Athletic Bilbao in Spain. He returned for a less successful period before once more walking away, this time when the board refused to back his judgement in the transfer market.

Another deal that was apparently signed and sealed seemed to be unravelling yesterday as, the world governing body, Fifa, said Ronaldo may have contravened their international transfer regulations even though Internazionale claim to have secured his services.

The Brazilian's lawyers say the world footballer of the year is a free agent, having obtained his release from Barcelona last Friday when he bought out his contract for 4bn pesetas (£17m). But Fifa rules state that a player cannot buy out his contract for the purposes of obtaining an international transfer. Any moves abroad must be negotiated by the two teams.

"The provision is strictly Spanish law and does not apply internationally," Fifa's deputy secretary, Michel Zen-Ruffinen, said. "The Italian club apparently believes the rule applies everywhere and once a player is free on Spanish territory is free to sign wherever."

The Spanish federation has submitted a complaint to Fifa on behalf of Barcelona, claiming that Inter have violated the Fifa rule which states that, any club wishing to talk to a player under contract to another club must obtain permission from his current club first. "Which apparently has not been done," Zen-Ruffinen said.

Inter yesterday said they had refused a £4m offer from Liverpool for Paul Ince, and hope to persuade him to stay.

Blackburn Rovers have signed the French defender Patrick Valery, on a free transfer from Bastia. The 27-year-old full-back is expected to join his new colleagues for pre-season training next week.

Jan Sorensen, a former captain of Denmark, is expected to be named as the new manager of Walsall. Sorensen, who played for Ajax and Bruges, impressed the Second Division club's chairman, Jeff Bonser, and the rest of the board during his interview despite being out of the game for some time.

Sixteen clubs are planning to break away from the Football League and for their own First Division. According to a report in the London *Evening Standard*, the scheme, apparently being developed under the working title of the Phoenix League, would involve the bigger clubs from the current First division, like Middlesbrough, Wolves, Sheffield United, Sunderland and Manchester City, but would exclude smaller ones, like Reading, Oxford, Swindon and Tranmere.

The Football League's spokesman, Chris Hull, said: "The proposal has as much credibility as a clothes horse in the Grand National."

Sheringham to leave

Teddy Sheringham yesterday reiterated his intention to leave Tottenham, dismissing reports that he had been persuaded into a rethink by the Spurs manager, Gerry Francis.

The England striker put in a transfer request before leaving for international duty in the Tournoi de France earlier this month, with the Spurs chairman, Alan Sugar, agreeing to his plea. But although a report on Tottenham's *ClubCall* service indicated that Sheringham had undergone a change of heart, a spokesman for the player insisted: "We don't know where this story has come from, but it is simply not true. Teddy wants to leave Spurs and is still very much on the transfer list."

Sheringham has been valued at around £6m and has been linked with Newcastle, Liverpool, Manchester United as well as moves to the Continent after signalling his ambition to join a club he feels are capable of challenging for top honours.

Brighton could face expulsion from the Football League over their failure to pay a £500,000 bond. The Seagulls were supposed to pay the bond by last Friday to secure their place in the League. That deadline passed although Brighton claimed that they had been granted an extension until this week. However, with the bond still unpaid, League officials may decide it is time to take action. Brighton's failure to pay the bond will be discussed at the League's board of directors meeting on Friday.

Britain's Davis Cup tennis captain, David Lloyd, has taken over the Third Division club Hull. In a statement issued by his financial partner, Tim Wilby, Lloyd confirmed that he had completed a £2.4m deal with Christopher Needler to secure a controlling interest at Boothferry Park. The pair, who have recently gained a major shareholding at the rugby league club Hull Sharks, hope to build a multi-purpose sports stadium complex for the two clubs to share.

"I believe it is crucial if the area is to become a major sporting centre in this country, which, with its popularity, it should be," Wilby said. Needler will receive £1,070,000 from the sale of his shares, with the remainder of the money being used to pay off debts.

France's Richard Dourthe cuts through the Australian Barbarians' defence yesterday Photograph: AFP

France lose out to Hardy again

Australian Barbarians	26
France	25

Mitch Hardy, the outstanding player in Australia's win over France in Saturday's first Test, returned to haunt the Five Nations champions yesterday as they suffered another defeat in a bruising encounter at Newcastle.

Hardy, the winger who ran in two quick tries as a replacement to lift Australia to victory in Sydney, scored the Australian Barbarians' only try as they clinched victory with a late penalty. But France could take heart from scoring three tries to one in their last warm-up match before the second Test at Ballymore in Brisbane on Saturday.

The Barbarians, effectively Australia's second-string side, kicked seven penalties in a match which saw several ugly clashes. "There was a lot of niggling out there," said the Barbarians captain and hooker, Phil Kearns.

The crowd jeered the former Wallaby captain on several occasions when he opted for a kick at goal instead of running the ball in the Barbarian tradition. France scored their tries through the centres David Dantiacq and Christophe Lamaison and the prop Didier Casadei. Sebastien Viars and Richard Dourthe kicked one conversion and one penalty each.

The Barbarians stand-off, Christian Warner, kicked six penalties and his late replacement, Manuel Edmonds, landed the match-winning penalty in the final minutes.

The tourists, who were unhappy with the refereeing in the first Test in Sydney, stayed in touch with their opponents on Tuesday despite a penalty count of 26 to 9 against them. Hardy is expected to take his place on Australia's reserves bench at Ballymore again, after the first-choice Test full-back, Matt Burke, withdrew yesterday because of a groin injury.

Australian Barbarians: Try M Hardy; Penalties C Warner 6, M Edmonds. **France:** Tries O Dantiacq, O Casadei, C Lamaison; Conversions S Viars, R Dourthe; Penalties Viars, Dourthe.

Rees warns Welsh what to expect

Rugby Union

Gareth Rees has warned Wales not to expect an easy ride when they embark on their six-match tour of north America today. Rees, the captain of Canada who played a major role in Wasps winning the Courage League title last season, predicts a tough time for the Welsh.

"Both the USA and Canada are capable of one-off upsets," said Rees. "I am confident we are capable of beating Wales and the Eagles are coming on fast and are a well organised side. Their players are very athletic and aggressive and their big tackling is a real weapon in their game."

The Cardiff flanker Gwyn Jones, who has taken over the Welsh captaincy from his club-mate Jonathan Humphreys, leads a 30-player squad missing 21 leading names – the eight who travelled to South Africa with the Lions and 13 others out injured for the trip that includes two Tests against the United States and one against the Canadians.

While the Eagles have never beaten Wales, Canada performed the feat at Cardiff Arms Park in 1993 with a Rees-inspired 26-24 victory. "We are coming off the back of the six-match Pacific Rim series and those six matches mean we will never have been better prepared," added Rees.

Wales travel with nine uncapped players with youngsters such as Pontypridd pair Kevin Morgan and Gareth Wyatt given the chance to enhance burgeoning reputations.

"I didn't expect to be touring with Wales just a couple of months after my 20th birthday. It has been an unbelievable season for me," said the full-back Morgan. "We all know that we have the chance to impress but that it is going to be tough without so many of our established internationals."

Scotland will also be hoping for big performances from their less experienced players for tonight's game against the Gauteng Falcons in Brakpan after losing three key members of their tour party.

Craig Chalmers, Rowen Shepherd and Ian Smith are all out, but the Scotland coach, Graham Hogg, said: "We probably have just enough experience for tonight with five capped players in the side.

"That was about the maximum we could afford with the big match against Northern Transvaal coming up on Friday. But we will expect the youngsters to step up a level. That is why they were selected for this tour."

Hogg confirmed that the players with stomach bugs, Derrick Lee and Andy Lucking, will definitely take the field against the Falcons. He added: "They are perhaps not 100 per cent. But if they don't last 80 minutes we can always substitute."

Scotland have two of their capped players in the front row to counter the presence in the Falcons team of former Springbok heavyweights Ian Hattingh, and the infamous Johan le Roux, the player accused by Sean Fitzpatrick of biting the New Zealand captain's ear.

After being on the receiving end of hard forward play in their game against Gauteng Lions last Friday, the Scots will look to be dominant in the front line battle. "We will seek to get early control up front and then move the ball wide. That is the kind of game that we want to play but it will depend on the forwards," said Hogg, who is optimistic his young side can win.

Argentina suffered further humiliation yesterday on their tour to New Zealand when the lowly First Division provincial side Taranaki beat them 26-10 in New Plymouth.

WALES SQUAD (tour to North America): **Backs:** M Back (Swansea), K Morgan (Pontypridd), W Proctor (Llanelli), G Wyatt (Pontypridd), N Walker (Cardiff), D James (Bridgend), G Thomas (Bridgend), L Davies (Cardiff), N Boobyer (Llanelli), J Lewis (Pontypridd), A Thomas (Swansea), L Jarvis (Cardiff), P John (Pontypridd), A Moore (Richmond). **Forwards:** C Loader (Swansea), I Buckett (Swansea), L Mustoe (Cardiff), C Anthony (Swansea), G Jenkins (Swansea), R McBryde (Llanelli), G Llewellyn (Harlequins), S Moore (Swansea), M Voyle (Llanelli), N Watkins (Neath), A Gibbs (Llanelli), N Thomas (Bath), R Appleyard (Swansea), G Jones (Cardiff, capt), A Williams (Neath), C Wyatt (Llanelli).

SCOTLAND (v Gauteng Falcons, tonight, Brakpan): D Lee (London Scottish); A Stringer (Newcastle), C Murray (Fawkes), J Mayer (Watsonians), M Longstaff (Dundee HSFP); S Nichol (Melrose), G Burns (Watsonians); D Hilton (Bath), S Brotherstone (Melrose), B Stewart (Edinburgh Academicals), S Murray (Bedford), A Lucking (Gala), C Mather (Watsonians), P Walton (Newcastle), N Broughton (Melrose). **Replacements:** C Joiner (Leicester), D Hodge (Watsonians), G Beveridge (Boroughmuir), S Campbell (Melrose), G Graham (Newcastle), G Bulloch (West of Scotland).

De Silva has victory in sights

Cricket

TONY COZIER reports from Kingstown, St Vincent

West Indies 147 and 226-3
Sri Lanka 222 and 179-3

Torrential rain during the lunch interval looked likely to deny Sri Lanka a rare overseas victory against the West Indies on the final day of the second Test here yesterday.

They had pulled to within 90 runs of the winning target of 269 with seven wickets standing and with their two most experienced batsmen, Aravinda De Silva and captain Arjuna Ranatunga, entrenched in an unbroken stand of 61 when the heavens opened.

The ground had already taken more than half an inch of rain over the previous three days and pools of water quickly formed on the outfield. Prospects of further play seemed doubtful.

De Silva had advanced from his overnight 34 to 76 at the interval, sharing an unbroken partnership of 61 with Ranatunga. This was not the flashing impulsive De Silva of the previous afternoon when he stroked seven boundaries in 34 off just 28 deliveries. He was more circumspect, acknowledging his responsibility in leading his team towards victory.

This is Sri Lanka's 74th Test since their elevation to the status in 1982, and they have only ever won three Tests on foreign soil, one in New Zealand and two in Pakistan.

Consistently in recent years the West Indies have had to rely on their fast bowlers to extricate them from difficult situations. This time they found no co-operation from either pitch or opposing batsmen, and very little from fielders who let through two boundaries and a couple of singles during the course of the morning.

They also had to contend with De Silva, surely among the finest of contemporary batsmen. He is now 31, this is his 61st Test and he has finally found the discipline required for consistent high scoring at this level.

Almost everything found the middle of his bat and the closest the West Indies came to dislodging him was when he misjudged the length of an off-spinner from Carl Hooper, missed and was nearly bowled. That apart, he pounced on the loose deliveries with certain cuts and drives and included 11 boundaries in his innings.

He lost his overnight partner, Roshan Mahanama, to a wicket keeper's catch off Ian Bishop 35 minutes into play but Ranatunga, with an even longer Test resume than De Silva, ensured the hosts were subdued after their early wicket.

Ranatunga, 33, and in his 69th Test, played in Sri Lanka's first back in 1982 as an 18 year old. He was at the helm when they won the World Cup in Lahore last year and this would be another substantial feather in his cap.

Final day: Sri Lanka won toss

WEST INDIES – First Innings 147 (C L Hooper 31; K R Pushpakumara 5-41).

SRI LANKA – First Innings 222 (S T Jayasuriya 90; C L Hooper 5-26).

WEST INDIES – Second Innings 343 (6 C Lara 115; M Muralitharan 5-113).

SRI LANKA – Second Innings

S T Jayasuriya b Walsh	17
R S Mahanama c Browne b Bishop	29
M S Atapattu b Walsh	10
P A de Silva not out	76
*A Ranatunga not out	34
Extras (lb 1nb12)	13
Total (for 3, 48 overs)	179

Fall: 1-26, 2-55, 3-118.

To bat: †R S Kaluwitharana, S Ranatunga, H D P K Dharmasena, K R Pushpakumara, S C de Silva, M Muralitharan.

Bowling: Ambrose 12-0-42-0 (nb6); Walsh 14-0-43-2 (nb4); Rose 5-0-24-0 (nb2); Bishop 8-1-48-1; Hooper 9-3-21-0.

Umpires: S A Bucknor (WI) and D B Cowie (NZ).

Advantage to Aldag after breakaway

Cycling

The unheralded German Rolf Aldag left the pack struggling in his wake on as he eased to a comfortable solo victory in yesterday's eighth stage of the Tour of Switzerland.

Aldag covered the 174.3km (108.5 miles) rain-slick course from Zug to Wetzikon in 4hr 7min 19sec, holding a 57-second lead over compatriot Udo Boelts in second.

The Dutchman Leon Van Bon finished third, 1:01 behind the winner, while Italy's Daniele Nardello and Gianni Faresin arrived fourth and fifth, by the same margin.

Christophe Agnolutto, of France, leads the overall standings, with a cumulative time of 28hr 17min 47sec.

£160m plan put forward for training facility

Winter sports

The prospects for an improvement in facilities for winter sports training in Britain brightened yesterday with a plan for a new £160m specialist sports centre.

The site, a disused quarry in Shoreham, Sussex will be a joint venture led by the building company Alfred McAlpine and a new firm, Ski 2000. "We have the technology to supply fresh snow and ice every day," said David Pritchard, the manager of the project. "In Tokyo they have the biggest resort in the world, so we are just intent on adapting their technology to fit to the south of England."

Britain has long needed better winter sports training facilities to improve a dismal record at the Winter Olympics.

RACING RESULTS

LINGFIELD

2.30: 1. HACHIYAH (R Hills) 15-8; **2. Imperial Scholar** 11-8 fav; **3. Dawam Allall** 11-2. 8 ran. 3½, 2½. (D Morley, Newmarket). Tote: £2.90; £1.30, £1.10, £1.20. Dual Forecast: £2.10. CSF: £4.21.

3.00: 1. HEAVENLY FALLS (D O'Donohoe) 4-1; **2. Rosewood Lady** 5-1; **3. Hamage** 3-1. 8 ran. 9-4 fav Up The Wall. Sht-hd, 1. (C Dwyer, Newmarket). Tote: £6.10; £1.40, £1.20, £2.30. DF: £15.50. CSF: £21.31.

3.30: 1. SILCA KEY SILCA (P P Murphy) 11-2; **2. Bayford Thrust** 100-30; **3. Shalstayholy** 3-1 jt fav. 9 ran. 3-1 jt fav Icy Guest (5th). 6, 3. (M Channon, Upper Lambourn). Tote: £7.30; £1.70, £1.40, £1.60. DF: £10.90. CSF: £20.93. Tricast: £58.55. Tno: £5.20.

4.00: 1. BENTICO (B Doyle) evens fav; **2. Law Dancer** 4-1; **3. Enchanting Eve** 15-8. 4 ran. 8, 6. (Mrs N Macauley, Melton Mowbray). Tote: £1.90. DF: £2.00. CSF: £4.71.

4.30: 1. GRACEFUL LASS (Paz Eddery) 13-8 jt fav; **2. Arriving** 13-8 jt fav; **3. Georgia Venture** 11-1. 6 ran. 1½, 1½. (D Loder, Newmarket). Tote: £2.60; £1.50, £1.20. DF: £2.00. CSF: £4.14.

5.00: 1. ABSOLUTE LIBERTY (G Milligan) 6-1; **2. Rash Gift** 15-2; **3. Kirov Protege** 3-1. 7 ran. 5-2 fav Peppers (5th). 1, hd. (S Woods, Newmarket). Tote: £8.50; £2.50, £2.70. DF: £11.90. CSF: £45.72. Tricast: £147.13. NR: Zahran.

Placepot: £78.90. Quadpot: £25.20.
Place 6: £47.58. Place 5: £43.09.

WARWICK

2.15: 1. OPPOSITION LEADER (D Holland) 4-1; **2. Signatory** 8-1; **3. Hoh Justice** 2-1 fav. 14 ran. 2, 1¼. (B Hills, Lambourn). Tote: £5.40; £1.40, £3.50, £1.20. DF: £17.50. CSF: £33.28. Tno: £7.60. NR: Mysticism.

2.45: 1. RUNS IN THE FAMILY (D Harrison) 7-2 fav; **2. Bairn Atholl** 33-1; **3. Sunset Harbour** 7-1. 14 ran. 2½, nk. (G McCourt, Wantage). Tote: £4.20; £1.60, £25.30, £1.90. DF: £161.80. CSF: £126.28. Tricast: £558.69. Tno: £539.80. NR: Stock Hill Dancer.

3.15: 1. DANCING CAVALIER (P Fredericks) 2-1 fav; **2. Silently** 12-1; **3. Golden Hadeer** 6-1. 12 ran. Sht-hd, 1¼. (R Hollinshead, Upper Longdon). Tote: £2.60; £1.50, £3.10, £3.50. DF: £31.70. CSF: £27.33. Tricast: £157.36. Tno: £97.00. NR: Pike Creek.

3.45: 1. SCHNOZZLE (T Sprake) 6-1; **2. Passing Strangers** 10-1; **3. Lavender Dalia** 12-1. 13 ran. 5-2 fav Sam Rocket. ¾, 5. (K Bridgwater, Lapworth). Tote: £5.60; £1.60, £3.10, £5.10. DF: £37.00. CSF: £65.42. Tricast: £656.63. Tno: £160.70.

4.15: 1. GUESSTIMATION (L Detton) 13-8 fav; **2. Bluebell Miss** 3-1; **3. Runic Symbol** 12-1. 13 ran. Hd, 2. U Pearce, Newmarket). Tote: £2.60; £1.10, £1.50, £3.20. DF: £5.00. CSF: £5.86. Tno: £35.50.

4.45: 1. SHARP REBUFF (S Sanders) 8-1; **2. Veni Vidi Vici** 9-1; **3. Q Factor** 15-2. 13 ran. 4-1 fav Admirals Flame. 1½, 2½. (P Makin, Ogbourne Maisey). Tote: £8.00; £2.90, £1.60, £3.20. DF: £33.30. CSF: £54.74. Tricast: £396.08. Tno: £82.50. NR: Marsud.

Jackpot: £5,644.40.
Placepot: £127.10. Quadpot: £39.50.
Place 6: £93.94. Place 5: £64.23.

TODAY'S NUMBER

47

The percentage of white South Africans who support the idea of government spending on Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games, according to a survey. This compares with 74 per cent of blacks in the country and 75 per cent of Asians.

SPORTING DIGEST

Wind picks up to help Edwards

Sailing

The all-woman transatlantic record attempt skippered by Tracy Edwards was well on track last night, on the third day after crossing the start line at Ambrose Light, New York, writes Stuart Alexander.

The 92ft catamaran Royal & Sun Alliance had covered 840 miles in the first 48 hours at an average of 17.6 knots, chasing the 18.6 knot average set by France's Serge Madec in the catamaran Jet Services in 1990. But that was after the wind had lightened over the second night and yesterday evening Edwards was reporting a renewed charge as the breeze strengthened.

In Stockholm at the end of the Round Europe Race Sweden's Ludde Ingvall announced that four of the Ericsson 80s, formerly the Grand Mistral yachts, would attempt to beat 100 days around the world. Roy Heiner of the Netherlands, Russia's Sergei Borodov and France's Bernard Perrin will be the other skippers.

Athletics

Michael Johnson, the Olympic champion, has recovered from the leg injury he sustained in the 150m showdown with Donovan Bailey earlier this month and will make his return to competition at the Paris Grand Prix meeting today.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Minnesota 7 Cleveland 2; New York Yankees 5 Detroit 2; Boston 7 Toronto 6; Milwaukee 5 Baltimore 0; Chicago White Sox 7 Kansas City 6; Anaheim 1 Texas 0; Seattle 6 Oakland 5.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal 5 Cincinnati 0; Philadelphia 9 Florida 3; New York Mets 3 Atlanta 2; Pittsburgh 6 Houston 0; Chicago Cubs 3 St Louis 0; Los Angeles 5 Colorado 3; San Diego 11 San Francisco 6.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	48	23	.676	–
NY Yankees	41	32	.562	6
Toronto	39	37	.471	10½
Boston	33	40	.452	13
Detroit	32	39	.451	13
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Cleveland	37	33	.529	–
Milwaukee	35	35	.500	2
Chicago W Sox	35	37	.486	3
Kansas City	34	36	.485	3
Minnesota	34	39	.466	4½
WEST DIVISION				
Seattle	43	31	.581	–
Anaheim	39	34	.534	3½
Texas	36	36	.500	6
Oakland	30	46	.395	14

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION				
Atlanta	47	26	.644	–
Florida	43	29	.597	3½
Montreal	42	31	.576	4½
New York Mets	42	32	.568	5
Philadelphia	23	49	.319	23
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Houston	37	38	.493	–
Pittsburgh	34	40	.459	2½
St Louis	33	40	.452	3
Cincinnati	30	43	.411	6
Chicago Cubs	29	45	.392	7½
WEST DIVISION				
San Francisco	42	32	.568	–
Colorado	39	36	.520	3½
Los Angeles	37	37	.500	5
San Diego	32	42	.432	10

Boxing

Steve Collins, Dublin's World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, must prepare himself to face a new opponent in his next title defence at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall on 5 July. Collins will now face America's Craig Cummings, because the original opponent, the Syrian-born Anwar Oshana, has withdrawn following a contractual dispute. *This will be Collins' seventh defence of* the title he took from Chris Eubank. He beat Eubank in the return, then Nigel Benn twice, Neville Brown, Cornelius Carr and the Frenchman Frederic Seillier.

Cricket

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Aon Risk Trophy (One-day matches) Chelmsford: Essex 176 (G R Napier 51; I D K Salisbury 4-25); Surrey 179 for 6 (D J Bicknell 47). *Surrey won by four wickets.* **Southampton:** Gloucestershire 231 for 5 (R C J Williams 54no); Hampshire 219 for 9 (G W White 74, G R Treagus 66). *Gloucestershire won by 12 runs.* **Southgate:** Middlesex 159 for 9 (M 6 Steele 4-22); Northamptonshire 51 for 2. *Match abandoned.* **Bishop Auckland:** Durham v Derbyshire. *Match abandoned.*

Cycling

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND (1,743km/1,085 miles, Zug to Wetzikon) Leading positions: 1 Rolf Aldag (Ger) 4hr 7min 19sec; 2 U Boelts (Ger) +57sec; 3 L Van Bon (Neth) +1min 1sec; 4 D Nardello (It); 5 G Faresin (It); 6 J Jaksche (Ger); 7 C Mengin (Fr); 8 B Zberg (Swit); 9 R Forconi (It); 10 F Puttini (Swit); **Overall standings (after 8 stages)** 1 C Agnolutto (Fr) 28hr 17min 47sec; 2 O Camenzind (Swit) 5min 14sec; 3 J Ullrich (Ger) +6:15; 4 O Alfonta Ezdebarna (Sp) +6:20; 5 R Meier (Swit) +7:06; 6 D Nardello (It) +7:36; 7 F Casas Garcia (Sp) +8:02; 8 S Gonelli (It) +8:05; 9 P Buschor (Swit) +8:14; 10 B Zberg (Swit) +9:19. **Selected:** 16 R Aldag (Ger) +11:34; 27 L Jaisbert (Fr) 34:33; 29 F Andreu (US) +34:50; 46 T Rominger (Swit) +50:45; 60 J Museeuw (Bel) +59:13.

Football

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP (Malaysia) Second-round fixtures: Today (Shah Alam): Uruguay v United States (10.30am BST); Morocco v Republic of Ireland (1.30); (Kuching): Brazil v Belgium (9.15am); France v Mexico (12.15). **Tomorrow (Alor Setar):** Ghana v United Arab Emirates (12.40); (Kuantan): Spain v Canada (12.40); (Kangar): Australia v Japan (-9.30am); (Johor Baru): England v Argentina (10.15).

UKRAINIAN LEAGUE final standings: 1 Dynamo Kiev (P30, Pts73); 2 Shakhtar Donetsk (30-62); 3 Vorskla Poltava (30-58).

Golf

Scotland open the defence of their European Amateur Team title at Port Marnock today, after the most thorough preparation of any of the visiting countries. Under Colin Wood, the new captain, Scotland have taken squads to the tough links twice this year and seen them in varying conditions. Two of the players, Michael Brooks and Barclay Howard, competed for Great Britain and Ireland in the World Team Championships last November and the team also has a Walker Cup man in Graham Rankin and the current Amateur Champion Craig Watson.

Rocco Mediate, a two-time PGA Tour winner who grew up in western Pennsylvania, shot a 6-under-par 65 on Monday to take the first-round lead in the 36-hole Family House Invitational. He scored with six birdies in a front-nine 30 on the Oakmont Country Club course.

FAMILY HOUSE INVITATIONAL (Oakmont, Pen) Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 65 R Mediate 30 35; 67 J Haas 35 32; 69 E Els 33 36, J Sluman 35 34, J Furyk 34 35, M Brooks 33 36; 70 J Leonard 35 35; 71 L Roberts 36 35; 72 S Appleby 37 35, S Jones 37 35, S Cink 35 37, C Strange 36 36, 6 Faxon 35 37; 73 C Perry 36 37, B Andrade 40 33, D Duval 37 36, F Funk 36 37, S Hoch 35 38, P Stankowski 37 36; 74 C Stadler 37 37, T Purtzer 37 37, B Simpson 36 35, T Tolles 36 38; 75 P Mickelson 37 38, B Ford 36 39, J Gallagher Jr 40 35, V Singh 39 36; 77 F Nobilo 38 39, 5 McCarron 37 40, B Tway 39 38; 78 C Perry 39 39, A Palmer 36 42.

Motor racing

Prost-Honda have announced Italian driver Jarno Trulli is to replace Olivier Panis, who broke both legs in a crash during the Canadian Grand Prix. The 22-year-old Minardi driver will make his debut with the team in the French Grand Prix at Magny-Cours on Sunday. Minardi said Trulli's place with them would be taken by Brazilian test driver Tarso Marques.

Rugby League

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Super League Visa World Club Championship Pool A: Canterbury (20) 34, **London** (4) 13. **Canterbury:** Tries Hetherington 2, El Masri, Norton, 6 Ward; Goals Halligan 7. **London:** Tries Edwards, Krause, Offiah, Roskell; Goals Masterson. **Warrington** (12) 28, **Auckland** (20) 58. **Warrington:** Tries Briers, Forster, Henare, Shelford, Swann; Goals Briers 4. **Auckland:** Tries T Ropati 4, A Swann 2, Kearney, Ngamu, Ridge, Vagana; Goals Ridge 8.

VISA WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

FINAL FIRST-ROUND STANDINGS

POOL A (Europe)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	3	1	0	2	44	108	2
Bradford	3	0	0	3	42	70	0
London	3	0	0	3	60	142	0
Warrington	3	0	0	3	62	148	0
St Helens	3	0	0	3	52	140	0
Halifax	3	0	0	3	12	204	0

POOL B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	2	1	0	1	36	28	2
Sheffield	2	1	0	1	30	62	2
Castleford	2	0	0	20	28	66	0
Leeds	2	0	0	2	28	76	0
Oldham	2	0	0	2	30	96	0
Salford	2	0	0	2	16	94	0

POOL A (Australasia)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra	3	3	0	0	192	48	6
Brisbane	3	3	0	0	152	22	6
Cronulla	3	3	0	0	118	30	6
Auckland	3	3	0	0	118	58	6
Penrith	3	3	0	0	122	68	6
Canterbury	3	2	0	1	110	46	4

POOL B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide	3	3	0	0	126	30	6
N Queensland	3	3	0	0	140	44	6
Hunter	3	3	0	0	110	28	6
Perth	3	1	0	2	46	66	2

Speedway

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: *Premier League:* Exeter 50 Stoke 40. *Amateur League:* Shuttlebubs 45 Anglian Angels 26; Western Warriors 43 Belle Vue Colts 35. *Premier League Four Team championship Qualifying round, fifth and final leg (Reading):* Arena Essex 27 Reading 26; Oxford 25 Newport 18. *Final aggregate scores:* Oxford 113, Reading 95, Exeter 94, Arena Essex 94, Newport 84.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Rugby League

SECOND DIVISION: Barnsley v Rochdale (7.30).

Rugby Union

TOUR MATCH: Gauteng Falcons v Scotland (at Boeman Stadium, Brakpan, 6.15).

Speedway

7.30 unless stated

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP Semi-final, second leg: Poole (42) v Coventry (48).

ELITE LEAGUE: King's Lynn v Ipswich (7.45).

PREMIER LEAGUE: Long Eaton v Glasgow.

PREMIER LEAGUE FOUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP Qualifying round: Hull v Skegness v Sheffield v Stoke.

Other sports

TENNIS: All-England Championships (Wimbledon).

The comeback man
Howard Kendall all set for third spell as manager of Everton, page 31

sport

Records tumble
NatWest Trophy first-round reports, page 29

WIMBLEDON '97: British No 2 demolishes Philippoussis as Wilkinson joins in the seed-swatting by overpowering Bjorkman

Rusedski wins the battle of big guns

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Wimbledon

Greg Rusedski's coach, Brian Teacher, believes in the power nf reverse psychology to the extent that when his protegé whipped the world No 2, Michael Chang, a few months ago his response was: "Jeez, you played a terrible match out there."

We trust that the coach's debriefing after the British No 2 completed his demolition of Mark Philippoussis yesterday ran along the lines of: "You served like Sabatini, volleyed like Seles and returned like Amelia Earhart."

Unfortunately, Philippoussis may have ruined Teacher's ploy. "Greg's serve is probably the best I've returned against," the Australian No 7 seed said. "If he can serve that hig in his other matches, who knows how far he can go. Good luck to him. He's going to have a good tournament."

The bookies are inclined to agree. Rusedski went into the first round duel of missile launching as a 33-1 shot with Hills for the title. Overnight, with the Briton leading by two sets and 3-1, his odds dropped to 14-1. After he secured the victory, 7-6, 7-6, 6-3, he was quoted at 12-1.

If this is going to be a Wimhledon for the outsiders, Chris Wilkinson is keeo to make his presence felt.

Wilkinson, a 200-1 sbot, had a stirring success against Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, the No 17 seed. 7-6, 0-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4. Bjorkman, it may be recalled, eliminated Pete Sampras, the world No 1, in straight sets in the quarter-finals of the Stella Artois cbampionships at Queen's Club less than a fortnight ago.

The British No 3 from Southampton, who arrived at the All England Club with a wild card, continued his habit of making a good impression. He reached the second round last year, having advanced to the third round in each of the previous three years.

Philippoussis won the Stella, outserving Goran Ivanisevic in the final, but Rusedski required only 14 minutes to wrap the match up yesterday, hitting six aces – four in one game, nne off a second serve, and one to finish with an attacking flourish which typified his performance.

Rusedski delivered a total of 27 aces to the Australian's 14 and won 87 per cent of his first serve points and 70 per cent off his second serve.

"I don't feel like I outserved him. I think I outsmarted him on the serve," Rusedski said. "I think, definitely, he had more serves that were more powerful than mine in the match. We both hit 138mph, fair enough, but I think his average speed was probably higher than mine. But I placed it, I mixed it up, I didn't give him any rhythm on the returns. I was pleased that I served smarter at certain times, rather than harder."

Had he found it difficult to sleep on his overnight lead?

"I did," he said. "You never know what's going to happen next day. I would have liked to finish off yesterday. Mark was the one who at 2-1 asked if we could stop, and they said we were playing one more game, so I tried to get a break, and I did."

Rusedski viewed the Philippoussis match as an even higger challenge than facing Sampras in the fourth rqund two years ago.

"Definitely," he said, "because it opens the draw up for me now. I mean, Philippoussis has just won Queen's, so he was definitely one of the favourites going into Wimbledon, because the Queen's champion usually does extremely well at Wimbledon."

Next up for Rusedski is the 26-year-old American Jonathan Stark, ranked No 58. Yesterday, stark defeated the Frenchman Stephane Hnet in five sets. "My next match is going to be very difficult as well," Rusedski said. "Jonathan is another big server.

"I'm just trying to stay focused and in the present, and not getting ahead of myself, because if you get into euphoria too much you won't play well.

"I think I'll feel more sense of achievement when I'm done with Wimbledon this year. It's like Queen's. After I lost that semi-final to Ivanisevic, 20-18, I wanted to do better, and I did better at Nottingham. I'm not going to celebrate that until after Wimbledon, so I want to keep on going with the roll and keep on winning and trying to do my best out there.

"In my next match I'm going to need the same crowd support I had against Philippoussis. I was down 6-2 in the second set tie break. I hit a kind of late return and it kind of went cross-court, which was nice, and the crowd's support really belped me out."

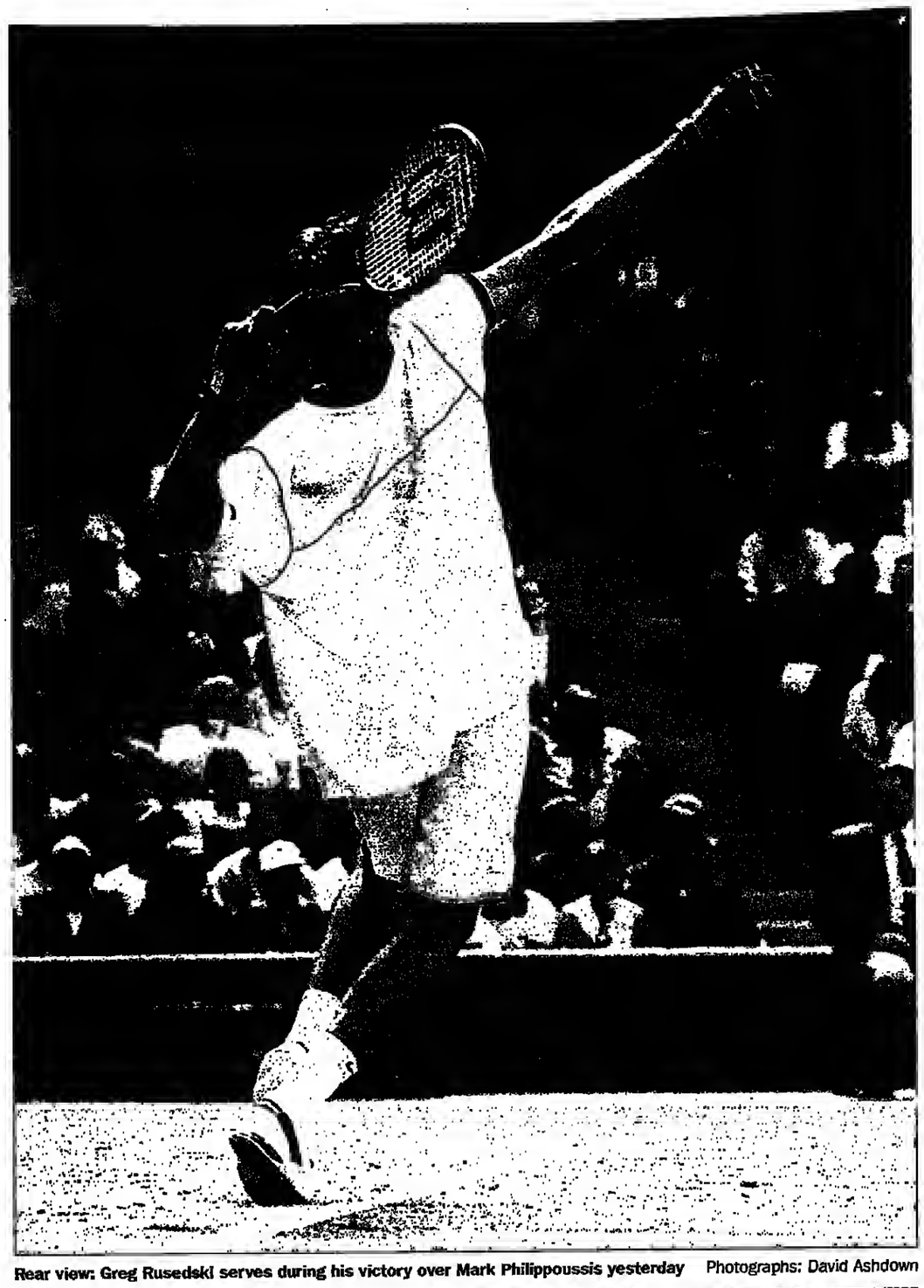
Wilkinson also bad tbe crowd's backing as he fought through against Bjorkman. "It's certainly one of the best matches I've played in at Wimbledon," he said. "It was tight, because in the beginning of the that fifth set I had quite a few break points and I wasn't quite converting them. And then I played a tough game at 3-3, and I just had to hold on, really. He had break points. I double-faulted. I hit some big serves at the right times. But it was a very important game to win."

Happily, Wilkinson appears to have settled his differences with David Lloyd, the Davis Cup captain. They had been at loggerheads since Wilkinson criticised the importation of Rusedski hy the Lawn Tennis Association m 1995. "There's no problem any more. David Lloyd has spoken to me and everything is fine."

Australia's Mark Woodforde, one half of the world's top doubles partnership (with Todd Woodbridge), is Wilkinson's second-round opponent.

Sampras eased into the tournament with a straight sets win against Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom, and Boris Becker did not experience even a twinge from his trouhlesome wrist as he swept past Marcos Gorriz, of Spain, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3. Michael Stich, who defeated Becker to win the title in 1991, prolonged his farewell to the lawns with a win against Jim Courier, the 1993 runner-up, 7-6, 7-5, 7-6.

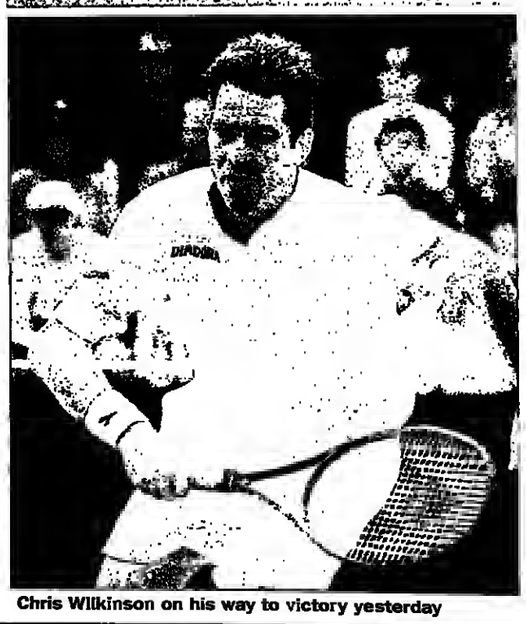
More reports, results, page 30



Rear view: Greg Rusedski serves during his victory over Mark Philippoussis yesterday Photographs: David Ashdown

YESTERDAY AT WIMBLEDON

- America's Kimberley Po becomes the first seed (No 13) to be knocked out
- Gustavo Kuerten, the French Open champion, trips up on grass
- Russia's 16-year-old Anna Kournikova makes an immediate impact



Chris Wilkinson on his way to victory yesterday

Sanchez slaughters woeful Wood

GUY HODGSON

When Clare Wood arrived for her post-matcb interview yesterday she hanged her head, which, as a metaphor for a day that might have ended her singles career at Wimbledon, could not have heen more appropriate. Some people go out of the All England Club on a high; her hruising parting located depths she did not deserve.

Wood tried to find an epitaph just in case an impending operation on her right leg is not a success and she came up with: "Please give me a game." Yesterday on Centre Court her prayers were either not heard or completely ignored and she lost 6-0, 6-0 to the eighth seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

It was a 50-minute slaughter that was so grisly the BBC must have feared putting it on television before the 9pm watershed. "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre" was a less one-sided affair. As someone put it afterwards: "At least Clare disguised which was her weaker wing."

Which was unfair because Wood, the former British No I, does have a wing so lame it makes successful singles almost impossible. Just before she injured ber right hamstring in a freak accident three years ago she reached a career high of 77 in the world. Yesterday she was languishing where the sun does not shine. at 365.

"It's the hamstring," she said. "I have two detached hands of muscle that need to be re-attached which means for the last three years I've been playing with one hand instead of three. It's an understatement to say it's a slight hindrance at this level."

The injury occurred during an exhibition match in Sussex three years ago when Wood slipped as she stretched for a hall and hyperextended her leg. If it bad been diagnosed properly at the time the damage would have been restricted, now, as she says, the prognosis of a successful return is "slim".

At 29 she can ill afford the six-month lay-off récuperation will require. Retirement beckons and an uncertain future. "Any job offers?" she asked, ber humour not entirely hiding her fears.

She could not find the strengtb even to reacb respectability yesterday, so that while Britain's leading men were felling seeds you could not see Wood for the freeze. Her first point did not come until the third game and sbe managed just 22 in all.

On her first point Wood punched the air in mock delight. Later, after the Spaniard had repulsed a barrage of volleys to win yet another rally she grabbed hold of the ball and threw it over the net. It was the only way she was going to better a woman who has reached the last twn Wimhledon finals.

"The crowd were great," Wood said. "I thought if I could get a cheer like that for getting a pnint imagine what they'd do if I win a game? When it got tn 6-0, 3-0 I was thinking 'Come on, you can do it' but although I got to a couple of game points she played them very well."

It was indicative of the Spaniard's concentration that she did not yield a fraction to allow her opponent a paltry souvenir. "If you relax a bit the other player can start playing better," she said. "I tried not to give her any chance." Wood could only stand painfully and admire.

Karen Cross, from Exeter, did rather better, becoming the first British qualifier to win a match in the main women's draw since 1976 when she beat the world No 44, the American Linda Wild, 6-4, 6-2.

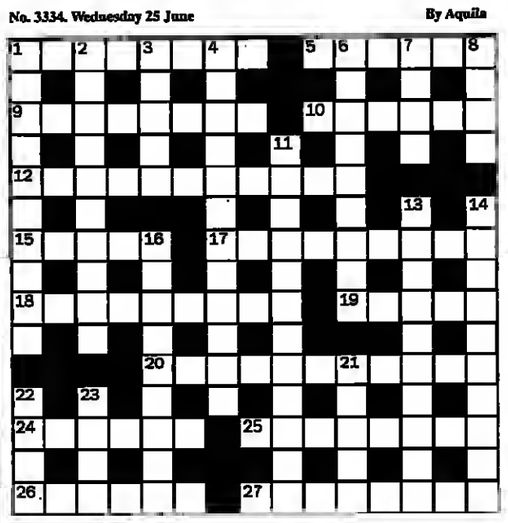
"It's the biggest result of my career," Cross, who is guaranteed £7,880, said. "It's my first win over someone in the top 100." She now plays another, Maria Sanchez Lorenzo, in the second round. "I hope I get one of the better courts, I'm the sort of person who will be nervous beforehand hut I like having the crowd behind me."

Shirli-Ann Siddall, the British No 3, might bave followed her when she led the four times finalist in Grand Slam tournaments, Helena Sukova, 5-2. Sbe could not grasp her chance and it disappeared without trace and sbe won only two more games before succumbing 7-6, 6-1. Even one of those was only grasped from love-40 down on her serve.

Jamie Delgado and Luke Milligan did not trouble their opponents much either in their resumed matches. Delgado was on the brink of defeat overnight against Jerome Golmard and fell over it immediately, losing 6-4, 6-2, 6-7, 6-2, while Milligan also did not linger for long, succumbing 2-6, 7-6, 7-5, 6-2 to Arnaud Clement. For both Frenchmen it was a first win at Wimhledon.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3334. Wednesday 25 June — By Aquila



Tuesday's Solution

ACROSS

1 Where striker must stand for increment (8)
5 Long speecb from canon on Sunday (6)
9 Girl's marriage and separation (8)
10 Tudors' woven woollen fabric (6)
12 Broadcasting speaker he's a sonneteer of renown (11)
15 Travelled round in a western show (5)
17 Steering England's first Tory into disrepute (9)
18 Early peripatetic teacher making total rise? (9)
19 Composer's record announced (5)
20 This army jumper rides up! (11)
24 Setting place on motorway? (6)
25 Flush waterhole and stir (4-2-2)
26 Advanced team in a position to score (6)
27 This form of vertigo takes the breath away (8)

DOWN

1 Current test of commercial enterprise (10)
2 Sad picture enlivened when this is thrown? (7-3)
3 Bond's computer? (5)
4 Air from it eventually leads to A flat we hear (4,8)
6 See scene of dramatic rourder? (9)
7 English in our time is enough for a poet (4)
8 Guy with counterfeit note (4)
11 Bullying — mental matter possibly? (12)
13 Peer's going out with call-girl from the underworld (10))
14 I say! Earnest about temperature? That is puzzling (10)
16 Picnic in open (9)
21 Where senior men were held in a golf round? (5)
22 Doctor after morning rounds (4)
23 Unfortunately trapped in dismal assembly (4)

Becker zips past Gorriz

It was the same old game plan. minus the tumhling volleys and precisinn placement, as Boris Becker exorcised his recent torment at Wimhledon to breeze into the second round yesterday.

Becker, a crowd favourite here since becoming the youngest player to lift the men's singles title at I7 years and seven months in 1984. relied on his powerful service game to hrush past the Spanish baseliner, Marcos Aurilio Gorriz, 6-3 6-2 6-3. "I made sure I had a good start," Becker said.

Lions pass another test

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT
reports from Bloemfontein

Free State	30
British Isles	52

Nigel Redman's triumphant Lions spent last night at altitude, both physically and emotionally. Their return to the high veld to face tbe Super I2 big guns from Free State had always been regarded as the most daunting midweek examination on the programme hut seven outstanding tries, three of them from John Bentley, rendered tbe myopic partisans of Bloemfontein utterly speechless.

There was a downside, however. Will Greenwood, who looked a very hot property indeed at inside centre, was carried off unconscious following a heavy tackle from Jaco Coetzee and was rushed to hospital for a precautionary scan. His tour may well he over.

The tourists built up a 31-13 lead by the interval and although the Free Staters growled briefly at the start of the second half, they were never really at the races. With the Lions back-row triumvirate of Rob Wainwright, Neil Back and the brilliant Eric Miller in rampant form another hard-nosed South African pack was blown to the four corners of their own pitch. There was class outside, too, particularly in the shape of Allan Bateman and his try-scoring performance at outside centre may well have earned him a place in this Saturday's second Test.

Early tries by Tim Stimpson and Bentley knocked the Free Staters back on their heels and when the huoyant Newcastle wing left Stephen Brink for dead to score his second on 26 minutes, the Lions were 18 points to the good. Bateman found his way on to the scoreboard before the interval and second-half strikes hy Bentley, Neil Jenkins and Tony Underwood hoisted the tally over the half-century mark.

Free State: Tries Brink 2, de Beer; **Conversions** de Beer 3; **Penalties** de Beer 3. **British Isles: Tries** Bentley 3, Stimpson, Bateman, Jenkins, Underwood. **Conversions** Stimpson 4; **Penalties** Stimpson 3

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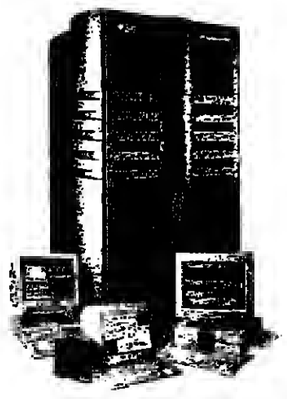
MORSE

Fat.



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